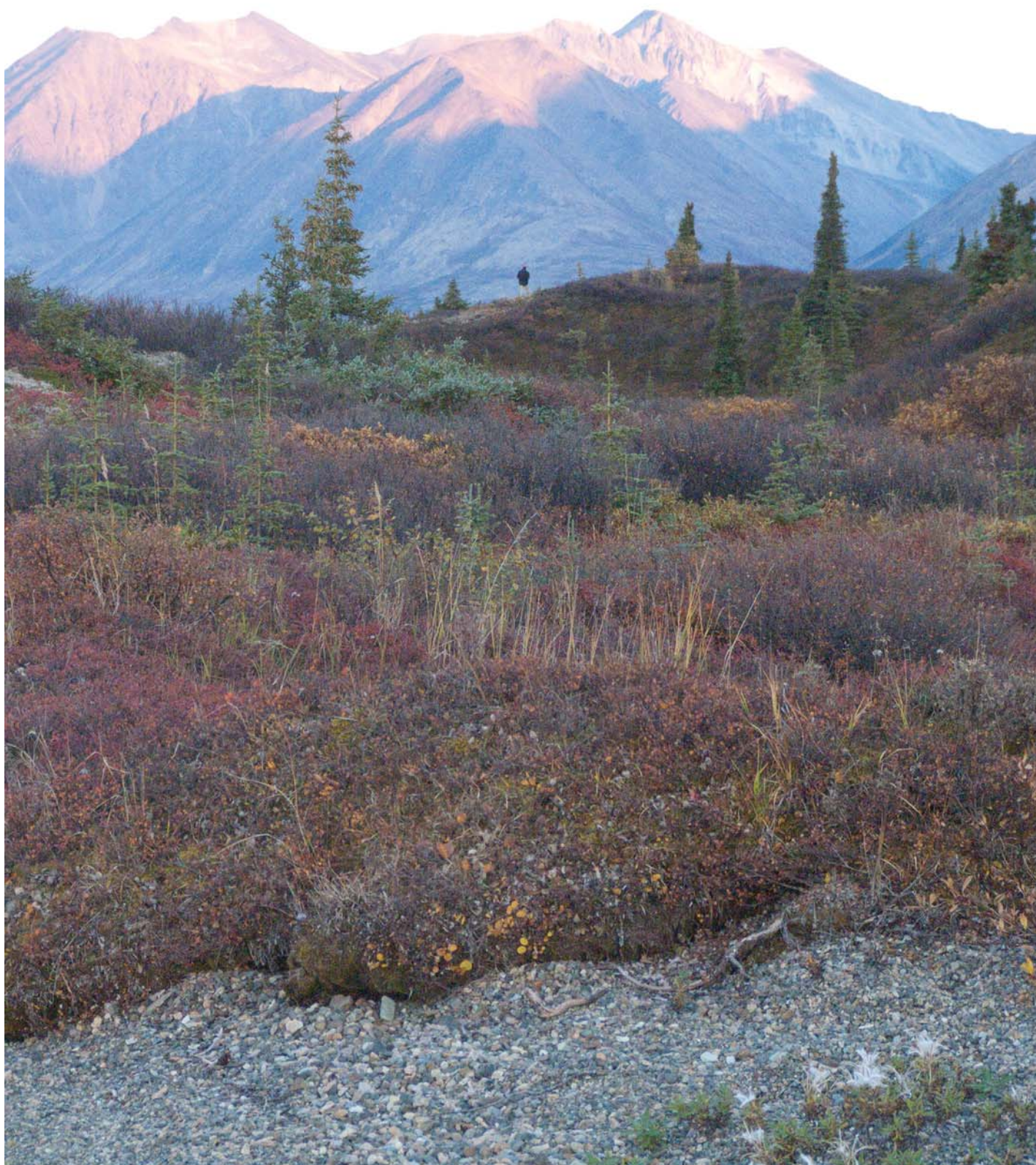




Lake Clark National Park and Preserve Long-Range Interpretive Plan

October 2010



Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Long-Range Interpretive Plan

October 2010

Prepared by:

Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Alaska Region

Harpers Ferry Center
Interpretive Planning

Cover Photo: Twin Lakes Area
Photo Credit: Wasserman / NPS

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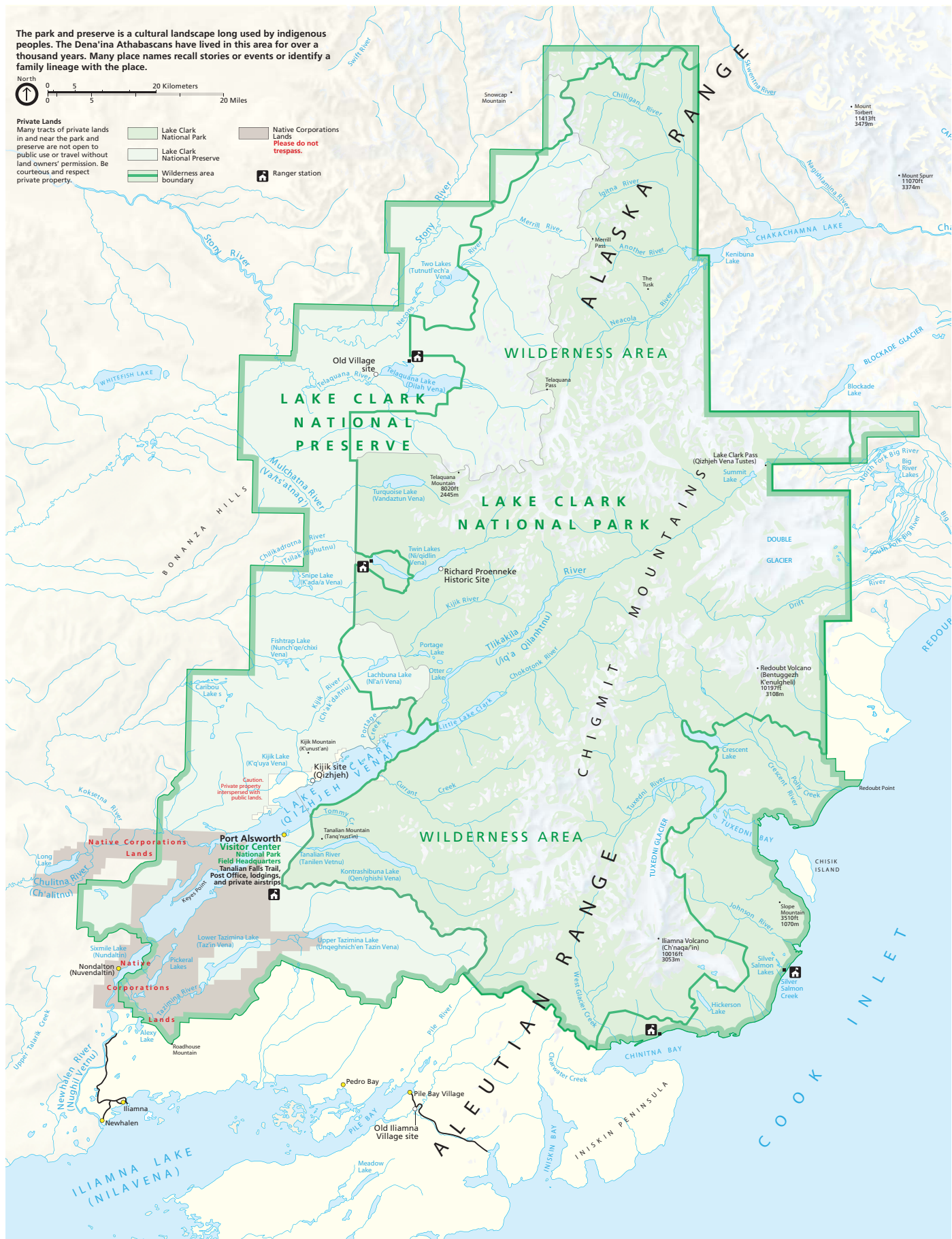
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Plan Highlights

During the next seven to ten years Lake Clark National Park and Preserve interpretive services will provide visitors with opportunities to increase their understanding and appreciation for the park and its resources; to engage in local educational opportunities; and to protect the park resources.

To provide an active, engaging interpretive program, park staff and partners will work together focused on the following goals:

- Develop Marketing Strategies and Improve Orientation
- Connect to Virtual Visitors
- Upgrade and Improve Interpretive Services at the Port Alsworth Visitor Center Complex
- Upgrade and Improve Site-Specific Interpretation
- Improve Existing Interpretive Programs
- Increase Interpretive Opportunities in Homer
- Expand Existing and Develop New Educational Opportunities
- Use Interpretation and Education to Address Resource and Safety Concerns
- Expand Existing and Develop New Opportunities to Engage Youth
- Maintain and Grow Existing Partnerships and Explore New Partnership Opportunities
- Fully Integrate Commercial Services into the Interpretive Program
- Expand the Volunteer Program



Lake Clark National Park and Preserve



NPS

Summit of Iliamna Volcano viewed from the Kenai Peninsula

Message from the Superintendent of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

In 1980, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve was one of thirteen National Park System units created or expanded by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. Covering over four million acres, the park includes Lake Clark, the sixth largest lake in Alaska, three national wild rivers, and two active volcanoes. Arriving almost exclusively by small aircraft, visitors find themselves in a wilderness where they can explore, see, and experience a largely undisturbed natural landscape. Due to the remote nature of the park, visitor services are also offered in the gateway community of Homer, Alaska.

The Long-Range Interpretive Plan is a document that sharpens our focus and draws together all of the education and interpretation efforts related to the national park and preserve. The *Foundation for Planning* section of this document defines the park themes, identifies the desired visitor experience, lists issues and challenges, and describes the existing condition of the interpretive services within the park. The *Recommendations* section identifies the specific actions that we and our partners intend to take to meet our vision for the future of interpretation over the next seven to ten years.

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve is supported through partnerships with many local, regional, and national organizations. The park staff engaged partners, local community members, commercial operators, and many others throughout the planning process. This collaborative effort produced a more comprehensive and inclusive look at how we will interpret the park to visitors in the future. By providing a broad spectrum of services, including a variety of media using the most current technologies, more visitors will be encouraged to experience the park in person as well as virtually.

On behalf of the park staff and our partners, I hope you will take time to review this important plan and join us as we continue to move forward in our efforts to preserve and protect the values and resources of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH', written in a cursive style.

Superintendent
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

The Planning Process

This Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP) outlines recommendations for future interpretive services, facilities, and media. Park staff, historians, partners, and stakeholders worked together to develop a comprehensive tool that will outline educational and recreational opportunities for visitors to develop intellectual and emotional connections to the natural and cultural resources found within Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The goal is to promote Lake Clark National Park and Preserve's resource values through specially planned visitor experiences and excellence in interpretation.

This Long-Range Interpretive Plan recommends actions that should occur over the next seven to ten years. It identifies park themes, describes visitor experience goals, and recommends a wide variety of personal and non-personal

interpretive services and outreach activities that will best communicate the park purpose, significance and themes. Developed in concert with the park Annual Implementation Plan and Interpretive Database, it completes the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan for the park, as established in Director's Order 6. In addition, this planning process has been customized to meet the needs for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, as well as the conditions and special circumstances that exist there. The ultimate product is a cost-effective, tightly focused, high quality park interpretive program that achieves management goals, provides appropriate visitor opportunities, and facilitates desired visitor experiences.

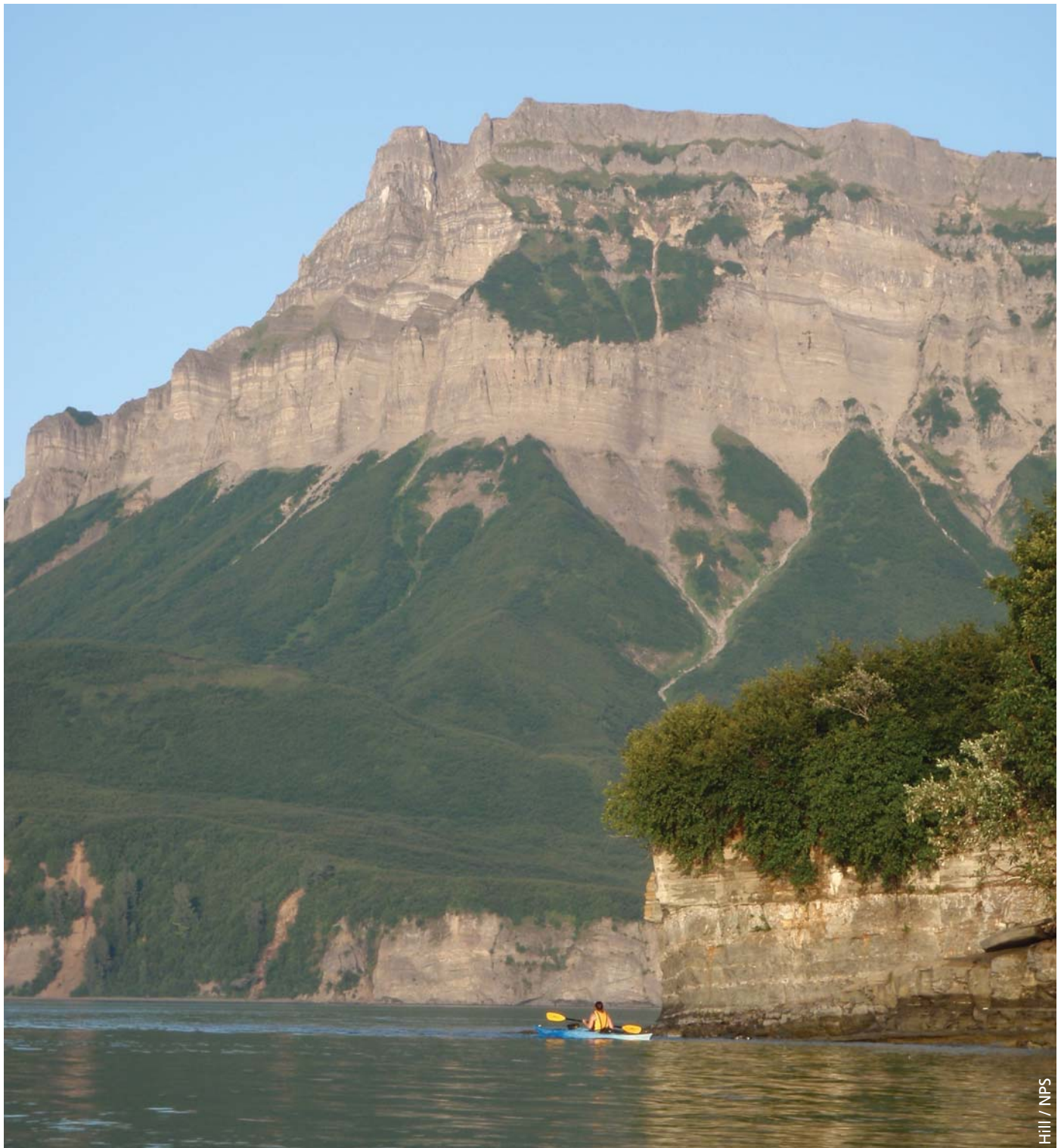
The Project Agreement was signed in March 2010. Two open house meetings were held before the Foundation workshop to gather ideas from staff, partners,

and stakeholders who could not attend the workshop. Seven people attended the Port Alsworth open house and nine attended the Homer open house. A Foundation workshop was held December 3-4, 2009 with 23 participants representing park staff, regional office staff, partners, educators, commercial users, local community members, and the cooperating association, Alaska Geographic. A scoping trip was conducted around Port Alsworth on April 20, 2010. A Recommendations workshop was held April 21-22, 2010 with 16 participants representing park staff, local community members, and park partners. On April 23, 2010 an implementation strategy session was held with park staff and partners.

Barring legislative changes or major new revelations, the foundational elements expressed in this LRIP – purpose, significance, themes, and visitor experience goals – will remain constant over the life of the plan. Specific recommendations about media and programs may need to be updated as staffing, funding, NPS policies and programmatic mandates, technology, or resource conditions change. Further design documents must be produced to implement some of the goals and recommendations in this plan.



LRIP open house at the Pratt Museum in Homer.



Hill / NPS

Part One: Foundation for Planning

Site Background

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve contains approximately 4 million acres of public land including three national wild rivers and two active volcanoes. Lake Clark, the sixth largest lake in Alaska, is at the headwaters of the Kvichak River watershed, which supports the Bristol Bay sockeye salmon fishery, one of the largest in the world. Lake Clark National Park and Preserve protects areas of scenic beauty, populations of fish and wildlife, the Lake Clark watershed, and the traditional lifestyles of local residents. Visitors to Lake Clark National Park find themselves in a wilderness where they can explore, see, and experience a largely undisturbed natural region.

There are private lands and Native allotment lands located within the park and preserve. Access is almost exclusively by small aircraft. The park is not accessible by road. A small visitor center is located in Port Alsworth. Historic sites are located in the Kijik Archeological District National Historic Landmark and at the Richard Proenneke cabin. Most visitor activities require self-sufficiency or a guide. Fishing, sport hunting, bear viewing, hiking, and backcountry camping are popular activities. Due to the remote nature of the park, visitor services are also offered in the gateway community of Homer, Alaska in cooperation with the Pratt Museum, the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, across Cook Inlet from the park.

Enabling Legislation

Each unit of the National Park System is established by an act of Congress and/or proclamation by the President of the United States. All park planning flows from the mission articulated in the park's enabling legislation. The enabling legislation is the specific piece of legislation that created the park and declared the intent for the park. Lake Clark National Park and Preserve's interpretive services and program must support this mission and help the public understand the significance of the park.

A Presidential Proclamation signed by Jimmy Carter on December 1, 1978 established Lake Clark National Monument.

On December 2, 1980, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve was one of thirteen National Park System units created or expanded by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). Section 101 of ANILCA establishes the broad purposes of the park and preserve, "to preserve unrivaled scenic and geological values associated with natural landscapes; to provide for the maintenance of, sound populations of, and habitat for wildlife species of inestimable value to the citizens of Alaska and the nation, including those species dependent on vast relatively undeveloped areas; to preserve in their natural state extensive unaltered arctic tundra, boreal forest, and coastal rainforest ecosystems; to protect the resources related to subsistence needs; to protect and preserve historic and archeological sites, rivers, and lands, and to preserve wilderness

resource values and related recreational opportunities including, but not limited to, hiking, canoeing, fishing, and sport hunting, within large arctic and subarctic wildlands and on free flowing rivers; and to maintain opportunities for scientific research and undisturbed ecosystems."

Section 201(7) (a) of ANILCA establishes Lake Clark National Park and Preserve to specifically, and in conjunction with Section 101 and the 1916 Organic Act of the National Park Service, to "protect the watershed necessary for the perpetuation of the red salmon fishery in Bristol Bay; maintain unimpaired the scenic beauty and quality of portions of the Alaska Range and Aleutian Range, including active volcanoes, glaciers, wild rivers, lakes, waterfalls, and alpine meadows in their natural state; protect habitat for and populations of fish and wildlife including but not limited to caribou, Dall sheep, brown and grizzly bears, bald eagles, and peregrine falcons."

Mission, Purpose and Significance

National Park Service Mission

A mission statement is a vision for the future and articulates, in broad terms, the ideas that the NPS strives to achieve.

The National Park Service mission is to preserve unimpaired natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

Park Purpose

Park purpose statements describe why an area was set aside and what specific purposes exist for a park, and are derived from legislation, legislative history, public participation, and public rule making.

The purpose of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve is to protect a region of dynamic geologic and ecological processes that create scenic mountain landscapes, unaltered watersheds supporting Bristol Bay red salmon, and habitats for wilderness-dependent populations of fish and wildlife, vital to 10,000 years of human history.

Specifically, section 201 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) states that the park shall be managed for the following purposes, among others: to protect the watershed necessary for perpetuation of the red salmon fishery in Bristol Bay; to maintain unimpaired the scenic beauty and quality of portions of the Alaska Range and the Aleutian Range, including active volcanoes, glaciers, wild rivers, lakes, waterfalls, and alpine meadows in their natural state; to protect habitat for and populations of fish and wildlife including but not limited to caribou, Dall sheep, brown/grizzly bears, bald eagles, and peregrine falcons.



Kent Miller / NPS VIP

Glacier-carved Lake Clark is forty miles long and one to four miles wide.

Park Significance

Statements of significance describe a National Park System unit's distinctive natural, cultural, and recreational resources and values that are the specific rationale for national recognition of the site.

According to the 2009 Foundation Statement, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve is significant for the following reasons:

1. Lake Clark National Park and Preserve protects extraordinary mountain landscapes dominated by two active volcanoes and cradles a system of turquoise-hued lakes and free-flowing rivers that epitomize Alaska's scenic beauty.
2. Lake Clark National Park and Preserve protects a complex mosaic of landforms and ecosystems that continue to evolve from dynamic tectonic, volcanic, glacial, and climatic processes.
3. Lake Clark National Park and Preserve protects critical spawning and rearing habitat at the headwaters of the world's most productive red (sockeye) salmon fishery.
4. Lake Clark National Park and Preserve protects vast, undisturbed landscapes of coastal areas, mountain ranges, tundra, foothills, and lake regions that support a full complement of fish and wildlife species.
5. Lake Clark National Park and Preserve protects a tapestry of cultural places woven from 10,000 years of human occupancy that is vital to the cultural and spiritual continuance of the Dena'ina Athabascan culture.
6. Lake Clark National Park and Preserve protects resources and provides opportunities for local rural residents to engage in the harvesting activities necessary to support a subsistence way of life.
7. Lake Clark National Park and Preserve manages one of the largest wilderness areas in the United States providing visitors with superlative opportunities for solitude and self-reliance.



Fox above Telaquana Lake.

Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes capture the essence of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve significance. They include the most important stories and represent core messages that every visitor should have the opportunity to experience. While interpretation of any site could touch upon many stories, focused themes increase effectiveness. When well conceived, themes explore the meanings behind the facts. They open minds to new ideas and perhaps to multiple points of view. When linked to commonly held emotions or universal human experiences, themes encourage visitors to see themselves in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve's stories and discover personal relevance.

A team of park and region staff, stakeholders, and partners worked together to confirm these themes and associated stories during the Foundation workshop held in December 2009. They are based on the seven themes identified in the October 2009 Foundation Statement. Appendix C lists the stories associated with each theme identified by workshop participants.

Mountain Landscapes and Wildness

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve's astonishing unimpaired scenic beauty provides excellent opportunities for solitude and to experience both wilderness and wildness.

Mosaic of Landforms and Ecosystems

The landscapes and geological formations of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve continue to evolve and provide opportunities to witness and study the forces of changing climate, water, glaciers, plate tectonics, and volcanism.

Salmon Fishery

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve protects critical habitat at the headwaters of the world's most productive red salmon fishery, which anchors the economy, ecology, culture, and history of Southwest Alaska.

Subarctic Fish and Wildlife Populations and Habitats

Lake Clark provides opportunities for the public and the scientific communities to experience, understand, and appreciate the natural processes that influence wild populations and their habitats.

Cultural Tapestry

The landscape and resources of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve support the cultural and spiritual ties between people and place for the indigenous Dena'ina, local residents, and park visitors.

Subsistence

The continuing story of people interacting with the environment of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve offers opportunities to study and reflect on how our individual and collective choices shape the landscape and populations of fish and wildlife.



Tanalian Falls

Desired Visitor Experiences

Desired visitor experiences describe what physical, intellectual, and emotional experiences should be available for visitors to Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. These experiences will be available to the degree possible to visitors of all abilities, including those with visual, auditory, mobility, or cognitive impairments.

Visitors to Lake Clark National Park and Preserve will be able to:

Recreational Experiences

- Hike, explore, and camp in a trail-less wilderness that has no wayfinding signs, development, or other signs of human impact where one can encounter wildlife and unspoiled nature.
- Experience solitude in a pristine unchanged natural landscape of extraordinary scenic quality and character.
- Fish for all of the fish species that inhabit the park.
- Sit by a river.
- Hear a thundering waterfall.
- Experience brown bears in their natural habitat to get exceptional close up photographs.
- Traverse on foot the length of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve from the Chilligan River to Tazimina Lakes.
- Raft a river to see the changing scenery and stop to explore on foot.
- Go on the fishing trip of a lifetime in search of trophy rainbow trout.
- Circumnavigate Lake Clark in a kayak or boat in the fall when the leaves are yellow.
- Discover the subsistence lifestyle.
- Walk in the footsteps of the indigenous people and their descendants who live throughout the park, and explore traditional trade and travel routes.

Personal Experiences

- Find solitude.
- Hike across open spaces, scramble up peaks, and camp along lakes and rivers.
- Fly over the northern areas of the park and observe the changes in geology and vegetation.
- Feel as though they are only one of a few that have ever experienced this special place.
- Share in the responsibility for protecting the world's largest remaining red salmon fishery.
- Experience the “remote” natural landscape encompassing the cultural heritage and history of the region.
- See the watershed of Bristol Bay protected in perpetuity, including clean water and clean shorelines.
- See salmon spawning
- Visit Dick Proenneke’s cabin and other cultural sites.

Traditional/Cultural/Rural Experiences

- Hunt spruce hen.
- Catch salmon.
- Cut firewood.
- Hunt for moose to eat.
- Trap beaver, tan the hide, and make mittens and a hat.
- Set up camp
- Make a camp fire
- Pick berries
- Collect drinking water
- Gather traditional foods



The fifty-one mile-long Tlikakila River is popular with rafters.

Information and Orientation

- Receive information about recreational opportunities and how to visit the park including where pilots can land.
- View an interactive website that is full of beautiful images and up-to-date information about the park.
- Have access to maps and guide books that provide insight into the biology, geology, and cultural history of the area.
- Use a backcountry trip planner to get information and trip options.
- Read more information about salmon on website.
- Receive information about transportation to and from the park.
- Receive information about what to pack for a trip to the park.

Interpretive Activities and Experiences

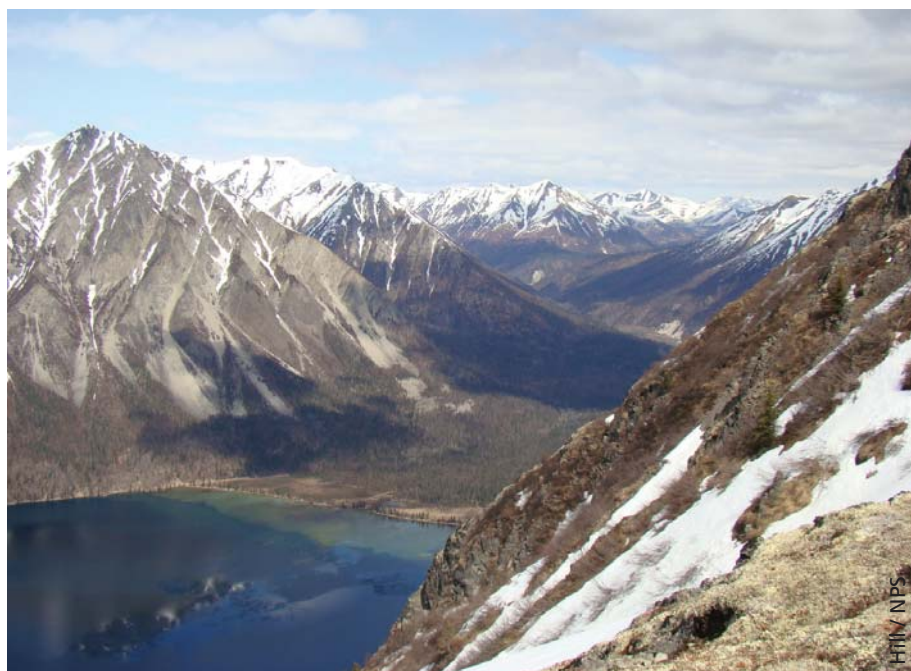
- Experience a state of the art visitor contact facility to learn about the park through interactive media-rich exhibits.
- See the country with a knowledgeable local person.
- Understand the lifestyle and challenges of the people whose homelands pre-date the park.
- Acquire materials that can be taken home to help them remember the trip and share their experiences with others.
- Become familiar with the native people who live in the park and understand how they interact with the park's resources in their daily life.
- Attend culture camp.
- Engage in group educational experiences such as boating or hiking trips and hands-on opportunities to participate

in natural and cultural history research projects.

- Allow urban youth to visit the park.
- Experience and understand the power and geology of the active volcanic peaks.
- Discover and appreciate the impacts of changing climate on the park resources and its stories.
- Explore Lake Clark and other water bodies in the park by kayak or canoe with an understanding of the historic and cultural significance of the region.
- Explore the back country in the footsteps of the region's indigenous peoples, explorers and adventurers.
- Get close to Alaska's incredible mountains, glaciers, and other scenic wonders.
- Participate in a hands-on activity to learn about the park.
- Hear an outdoor fireside talk by a park historian about the history of the region and the park.

Support Facilities

- Stay in a designated camping area or in a family-oriented accommodation.
- Feel comfort, reassurance, and security knowing that they may be rescued if they get into trouble.
- Fly over the park and see it from the air.



Kijik Lake

Park Visitors

This is a broad description of park visitors and their needs – including current and potential visitors. “Visitor” describes anyone who uses a park’s interpretation and education services whether in person or “virtually” through digital technologies.

Approximately 6,500 visitors actually come to Lake Clark National Park and Preserve annually. This figure is based on a four-year average of monthly public use data taken during calendar years 2005-2009. There was a 43% increase in visitation from 2008 (6,802) to 2009 (9,711).

The annual Commercial Use Authorization (CUA) visitation report reflects significantly lower numbers. From 2005 to 2009, the average number of visits reported by CUAs is approximately 4,400. This report also indicates a 16% decrease in visitation from 2008 (5,637) to 2009 (4,713).

July and August are the peak visitation months. June and September 2009 also indicated peak levels of visitation. Less than 200 visits are recorded each month during the rest of the year.

Most visitors are contacted outside the physical park boundaries through the website or on the Kenai Peninsula. Visitors traveling along the Sterling Highway have an unobstructed view across Cook Inlet (weather permitting) of the coastal side of the park. Interpretive rangers, based at the park’s Homer Field Office, contact visitors through interpretive services offered at the Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center, the Pratt Museum and various locations throughout the Homer community. Since the Homer Field Office was established in 2005, the park’s annual Servicewide Interpretive Reports indicated a significant increase in visitor contacts through personal services. From 2006 to 2009, an average of 17,400 visitors was contacted annually.

During the December 2009 Foundation workshop the following groups were identified as currently visiting Lake Clark National Park and Preserve based on particular interests and needs.

- Resident
- Consumptive
- Non-consumptive
- Education
- Recreation
- Tourist
- Research
- Employees
- Spiritual
- Cultural/historical
- Media
- Guided/transport
- Not-guided
- Virtual
- Visual/viewshed – visitors seeing the park from Cook Inlet side
- Opportunistic
- Absentee landowners
- Aviation
- Government officials (local, tribal, state, and federal)



When traveling the Sterling Highway on clear days, visitors have an unobstructed view of Lake Clark National Park.

During the lifetime of this Long-Range Interpretive Plan, potential future visitors to Lake Clark National Park and Preserve may include:

- Students and teachers from the Kenai Peninsula School District
- Staff exchanges between the park and partners
- Contractors hired by the park to assist with park projects and contractors coming into the area related to regional economic development.
- Neighbors/adjacent communities including visitors from the resident zone communities (Pedro Bay, Newhalen, Iliamna, Nondalton, Port Alsworth, Lime Village)
- People who cannot physically and/or financially get there
 - Travel to the park is costly.
 The majority of people who hear about the park and want to visit may not be able to afford to visit.
- Because most park facilities and landscapes do not meet accessibility standards, the park is accessible primarily to visitors with a narrow range of physical ability.
- People who don't yet know about the park – Lake Clark is still a fairly unknown park, even to other NPS staff servicewide, so this is a large untapped pool of potential visitors.
- Industry - Regional economic and industrial development may bring more people into the area that may eventually become park visitors.
- Youth organizations
- Community Organizations and clubs (Alaska Mountaineering Club, Nordic Ski Club, Service Organizations)
- University organizations (University of Alaska Anchorage, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and Alaska Pacific University)
- Sport hunters



Youth from the local resident zone communities will be future visitors to and protectors of Lake Clark's resources.

Issues and Challenges Affecting Interpretation

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve has many assets upon which to build an effective interpretive program, including evocative and compelling stories, outstanding natural and cultural resources, ongoing research, and dedicated staff and supporters. It also faces a number of challenges. Well-designed programs can build on interpretive strengths to help overcome these challenges.

- Cost of getting to the park - Travel to the park is costly. The majority of people who hear about the park and want to visit may not be able to afford to visit.

- Facilities are spread out and resources may be spread too thin - The park has an administrative office in Anchorage, a field office in Homer, and a field headquarters in Port Alsworth. This configuration of staff and resources makes communication challenging. When Lake Clark programs and administration were split from Katmai National Park and Preserve there was no funding or additional FTEs to develop a stand-alone interpretive program.

In order to begin building an interpretive program, the Subsistence Program Manager took on the additional duties of Chief of Interpretation. The park is working to build capacity and adequate staffing through requests for base funding increases, leveraging new and existing partnerships with other agencies and organizations, and partnering with Katmai to share funding of the Education Specialist position.

- Resource changes - The Mulchatna caribou herd is currently declining in number. Caribou is one of the wildlife species specifically mentioned in the park's enabling legislation and in some of the park's interpretation, perhaps raising visitor expectations for wildlife viewing that cannot be met.
- Lack of personnel in the field - For at least five years the park has relied upon volunteers to staff key visitor contact places including backcountry cabins and Chinitna Bay. Unfortunately, the volunteer staffing is intermittent and inconsistent although the situation is improving. Training of, expectations for, and communication of duties and regulations to volunteers is also inconsistent, sometimes leading to miscommunications with visitors and CUAs.



Spencer / NPS

After erupting in 2009, Redoubt Volcano became world renowned; however, its location within Lake Clark National Park is often not mentioned in scientific reports or tourism publications.

- Need to have consistency of messages and interpretive standards from NPS to cooperators/guides/partners - Other than some efforts at Silver Salmon Creek, park staff has not attempted, nor have interpretive staff been asked to assist cooperators, guides, and partners with interpretive messages.
- Interpretive training for all commercial operators – Interpretive staff has not provided cooperators, guides, and partners with interpretive training, although the park does have the capacity to do so with a trained IDP Regional Coach on staff.
- ANILCA remains controversial with some people in Alaska.
- National parks in Alaska have distinct differences from the national parks in lower 48. Many policies and practices that make sense for parks in the lower 48 do not make sense in Alaska. For example, due to open access and the remote nature of certain areas of the park, there is not an effective way to participate in the annual servicewide Visitor Use Survey.
- Mining interests around the park – In the future, there may be efforts to develop large-scale mining projects in the vicinity of the park. Increased publicity may raise awareness of the existence of the park and its resources.
- Risks and difficulties involved in getting to and within park - Due to the reliance on small aircraft to access the park, weather is most often the determining factor as to whether or not someone gets in or out of the park. This has serious implications for emergency situations where help may not be able to come as quickly as needed.
- Perception of risk - It is a challenge to communicate the numerous inherent risks involved in travelling through an undeveloped wilderness without discouraging people.
- Lack of awareness by visitors as to the type of park and the level of self-sufficiency required.
- Lack of park identity - Specific locations and geographic features are known to the public, but not associated with Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. For example, when Redoubt Volcano was erupting in 2009, the Alaska Volcano Observatory provided regular updates on the eruption but failed to mention that the volcano was in Lake Clark National Park when describing its location. Tourism publications, such as *The Milepost*, mention Redoubt and Iliamna Volcanoes, but not the park, even though the park's coastal area is visible from the Sterling Highway.
- State support for small businesses – Rural Alaska tourism opportunities.
- Access to Port Alsworth restricted to private airstrips - The park does not own the runways.
- Embracing changing technology – Park staff lack the expertise and capacity to develop and make use of available technologies now commonly used by other park sites (video/audiocasts, Twitter, Facebook).
- Embracing new audiences – Develop formalized listening processes to encourage broader public participation in park planning, initiatives, events, and programs.
- Impact of visits on local residents' lives and lifestyles.
- Limited number of park staff, specifically interpretive staff, and a limited amount of time to complete assignments as well as inadequate working space.
- User conflict – Competition for resources.
- Impacts of alternative energy needs on park.
- Limited availability of quality baseline data – Expensive to get and may require partners to compile and analyze.
- Need to consider the cost of support from the maintenance program when writing PMIS projects for interpretation. For example, maintenance staff constructed boat and fish racks at no cost to interpretation.

- As expectations for interpreting climate change increase, it will be useful for interpreters to cite park-specific examples as the information becomes available. Getting park science to an interpretive level will require ongoing communication with the Southwest Alaska Inventory and Monitoring Network (SWAN) so that interpretive programs can accurately reflect the most up-to-date understanding of how park resources are changing. Maintaining this valuable relationship is the key to helping the public understand the complexity of documenting evidence of changes in the resource and the challenges involved in identifying the drivers and consequences of those changes.



Providing timely and accurate responses to visitor questions about park resources, such as glacier retreat, will require a coordinated effort between park interpreters and the Southwest Alaska Network.



Olson / NPS

Part Two: Existing Conditions

The following is a brief and generalized description of visitor experiences and interpretive services that existed in FY2009. The purpose of this section is to provide a baseline assessment that can help to justify some of the plan's proposed actions.

Information and Orientation

Marketing

The park informs the public of upcoming events and special programs through public service announcements posted on the park website as well as sent to area newspapers and radio stations.

The park receives information requests on a daily basis via letters, phone calls and e-mail messages. Most requests are for basic information about the park and/or directions to the park. Brochure requests are decreasing, as the park website becomes more popular.

Website

The park website (www.nps.gov/laci) is a very popular way to gain information about the park. Virtual visitors access the website to learn about the park's cultural and natural history. The most visited web pages, according to a 2008 NPS web report, are the photo gallery and Proenneke cabin information. The photo gallery includes scenery, wildlife, and historic images. There is information about how to visit the backcountry, bear safety, and lists of guide services. The park recognizes the importance of the website as a tool to reach

“armchair” visitors, long distance researchers, and as a pre-visit information opportunity. Two staff members are the assigned web managers and have good intentions of upgrading the media, but have not been able to devote an appropriate amount of time to the website beyond triage and mandatory updates like publicizing the new gun law. The slow internet connection at Port Alsworth makes it challenging for interpretive staff to efficiently maintain and update the website.



Kent Miller / NPS VIP

Kayaking on Upper Twin Lake

Facilities and Popular Destinations

Port Alsworth Visitor Center

The park visitor center in Port Alsworth offers interpretive displays, an Alaska Geographic retail outlet, and the most up-to-date information on park activities and conditions. The visitor center is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily, June through August and Monday-Friday, September through May, and is closed on federal holidays except for Memorial Day, July 4, and Labor Day.

There is also a large-scale map of Lake Clark on a tabletop. Interpretive staff at the center includes one permanent part-time interpretive park ranger and one student intern. Visitors are greeted with a brief orientation talk and offered refreshments. Anecdotally, more than half of the visitors watch at least one of the videos.

The 20' x 20' foot space limits the interpretive services that are offered. There is a large-screen monitor used for showing videos and a meeting space that is available for community use. There is a touch table featuring skins and skulls and a touchable display revealing traditional uses of natural resources. Exhibits on the walls as well as animal and fish mounts provide a glimpse into the variety of the park's natural resources.

Visitation is recorded through the use of the visitor center guest book. According to the FY2009 Servicewide Interpretive Report, 575 visitors signed in that year.

Tanalian Falls Trail

A two and one-half mile one-way trail to Tanalian Falls departs from Port Alsworth. This is the only maintained trail system in the park. A trail guide and map is available at the Port Alsworth Visitor Center and on the park website.

Telaquana Trail

The Telaquana Trail is an unmarked historic Dena'ina Athabascan route from Telaquana Lake to Kijik Village on Lake Clark and has been designated as the Telaquana Corridor Historic District Cultural Landscape. Backpacking is the primary method for visitors to travel along the Telaquana Trail and the west side of the mountains. Visitors often are dropped off at Turquoise Lake by air taxi, then hike to Twin Lakes or points further south. The trail is part of a larger network crossing Dena'ina territory on the upper Alaska Peninsula that connected all major villages in the area to each other and to seasonal camps.

A trail guide suggested by the park website is available through Alaska Geographic.



Port Alsworth Visitor Center is frequently a community gathering place.

Kijik Archeological District National Historic Landmark and Cultural Landscape

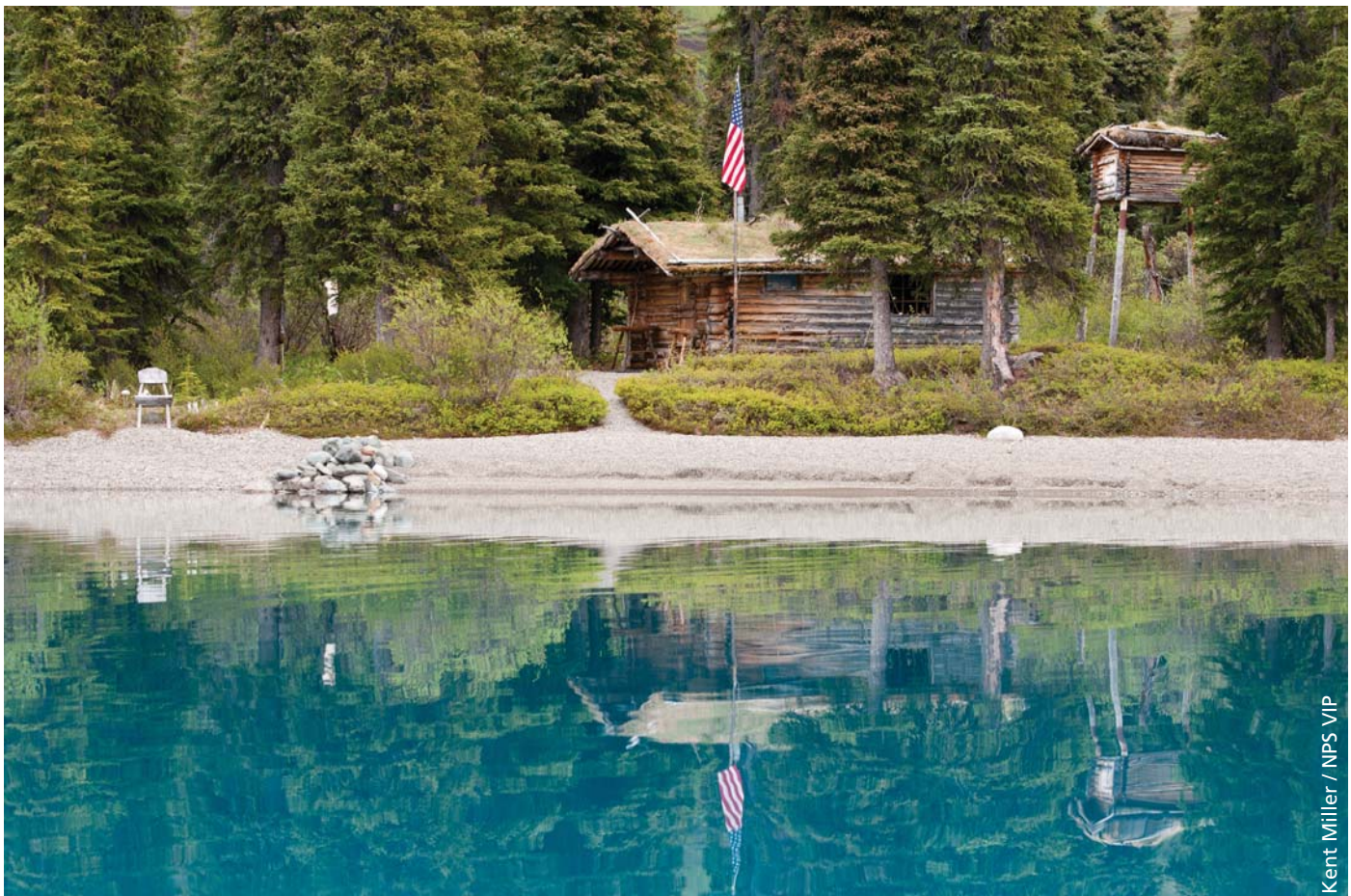
Visitors must use a boat or a float plane to get to Kijik, which includes an old village site and Russian Orthodox cemetery. It is a National Historic Landmark and an Archeological District, as well as a documented cultural landscape. Kijik contains more than a dozen archeological sites. The sites are affiliated with the inland Dena'ina Athabascan people who continue to live in the Lake Clark area. There are no interpretive services currently offered at Kijik due to significant private land in the area and sensitivity of the site.

Richard Proenneke Historic Site

The cabin Dick Proenneke built and lived in for nearly 30 years is located on Twin Lakes and is open to the public year round. Long-time volunteers staff the cabin in the summer and provide informal interpretive talks about Proenneke and his experiences in the Lake Clark wilderness. There are many original artifacts from Proenneke's time there that people can examine and touch. There are also a number of replicas of things he made and used at the cabin. Overnight stays in the cabin are not allowed.

There are a few hardened campsites available across Hope Creek from the Proenneke site with a block and tackle to suspend food containers, an "outcan" and a fire ring. Campsites are available on a first come first served basis.

There are three other cabins in the area – Spike's cabin, where the volunteers stay, Hope's cabin, where park staff stays, and another cabin used as a shop by a volunteer who maintains the cabins and replicates Proenneke artifacts. Some of the volunteers are comfortable having visitors come and view the other cabins and some are not. There is no current policy on access to the other cabins, but there is a "tradition" by some guides of bringing visitors to the other cabins.



Kent Miller / NPS VIP

Richard Proenneke Historic Site tells one man's story of life in the Lake Clark wilderness.

Silver Salmon Creek and Chinitna Bay

Silver Salmon Creek and Chinitna Bay are remote areas located on the Cook Inlet coast of Lake Clark National Park that are accessible only by boat or planes landing on the beach. Visitors fly from Homer, Soldotna, and Anchorage for fishing and bear viewing. Lake Clark National Park maintains remote, backcountry visitor contact stations at each site.

At Silver Salmon Creek, a Park Ranger contacts every group – guided and unguided – from the second week of June through mid-September. Volunteers intermittently staff the day use area at Chinitna Bay and contact visitors who are mostly bear viewing. The volunteers receive little or no interpretive training. Safety information and informal interpretation highlighting the park and its resources are the primary interpretive services offered. Private lodging is available for visitors at both sites.

Sterling Highway

Visitors driving along the Sterling Highway from Soldotna to Homer have an opportunity to view the eastern side of Lake Clark National Park including Iliamna and Redoubt Volcanoes. There are four wayside exhibit panels located along the Sterling Highway produced by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation Interpretation and Education Program. One wayside exhibit panel is located in the Anchor River State Recreation Area and the other three are at highway pullouts.



Bear viewing at Silver Salmon Creek.

Baycrest Pullout – Sterling Highway above Homer

During the summer season, weather permitting, uniformed Lake Clark interpreters based in Homer, staff the Baycrest Pullout on the bluff above Homer off the Sterling Highway. Visitors have an opportunity to view the southeastern coast of the park and Iliamna Volcano. Hundreds of visitors can be contacted on sunny days within a couple of hours.

Bishop's Beach

Bishop's Beach is located in Homer, off of Main Street, just below the Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center. Park interpretation staff offer weekly beach walks and monthly tide pool hikes June through August in collaboration with the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve and the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

Wilderness

One of the primary reasons visitors come to Lake Clark National Park is to experience wilderness. There is only one designated and maintained trail system in the park. It is within walking distance of the Port Alsworth field headquarters. Most hiking is done using a compass, map, GPS, dead-reckoning, and/or line of sight. Camping is primitive, because there are no facilities or designated campgrounds. There is one hardened camping area across Hope Creek from

Dick Proenneke's cabin. Visitors are asked to follow Leave No Trace guidelines. No backcountry permits are needed although visitors venturing into the backcountry are asked to complete a voluntary backcountry registration form. The park website advises visitors to leave their itinerary at the Port Alsworth Visitor Center.

Recreational Uses

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve was created, in part, to provide recreational opportunities. Visitors come to enjoy a variety of recreational

activities including sport fishing, sport hunting, kayaking, boating, hiking, backpacking, birding, and bear viewing. This list of activities is not all inclusive, but represents the range of recreational activities visitors and local residents can enjoy in the park and preserve.

Park staff attempt to reach recreational users through resource education. The backcountry safety brochure, safe boating program, and safe bear viewing guide help focus visitor attention on safely accessing and enjoying the park and its resources.



Hiking in the wilderness near Upper Twin Lake.

Interpretive Media

Audiovisual Presentations

The Port Alsworth Visitor Center offers a variety of videos that the public may view upon request. None of the videos are captioned for the hearing impaired, and there are no assistive listening devices available. The park does not have an overview film.

In 2007, the park produced *Dena'ina Qesh'qa*, a 15-minute DVD, in partnership with the Pratt Museum, to share the story of Gabriel Trefon, a traditional tribal chief, or *qesh'qa*, of the inland Dena'ina Athabascan people. Trefon's tenure as *qesh'qa* spanned a time of transition for the inland Dena'ina as they integrated their traditional lifestyle into the modern world. The project made use of both front-end and post-production evaluation. Focus groups consisting of Dena'ina elders and resident zone community members were used to address cultural sensitivity and ensure accuracy.

Other videos shown include "One Man's Alaska," "Alone in the Wilderness," "Iliamna and Redoubt Volcanoes," and "There's No Place Like Twin Lakes."

There is a PowerPoint program "Threads of Dena'ina Heritage" that may be presented to visitors.

Publications

Official Map and Guide (2006) – Text and photos reflect the scenic beauty of the park. Text emphasizes need for self-sufficiency when attempting a park visit.

Tanalian Falls Trail Map was revised in 2010.

Points of Interest in Port Alsworth (no date) – Aerial photograph is used to indicate different locations around the community.

Site Bulletins

- Visiting the Backcountry (2008) – Regulations, bear safety information, food storage requirements, and sport fishing tips

Other

- Subsistence Fishing in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (2001) – regulations and general provisions
- Promises to Keep: Subsistence in Alaska's National Parks (no date)
- Bear Safety in Alaska's National Parklands (no date) – General bear safety information and food storage requirements
- National Parklands in Alaska (2004) – main photograph is of Chulitna Bay
- Dick Proenneke: Alaskan Pioneer and Craftsman (no date) – information about Dick Proenneke and the Dick Proenneke Historic Cabin Site – being revised
- Silver Salmon Creek Newsletter (Winter 2009) – updates and news to improve

communications between the park, guide services, and commercial operators

- Subsistence Users Guide (April 2009) – updates, regulations, and news to improve communication between the park and subsistence users.

Trail Guide

- Tanalian Falls Trail Guide (revised 2010) – used in conjunction with the Tanalian Falls trail map. The guide references some items of interest along the 2.4-mile long trail and provides bear safety information, and descriptions of some common flora, fauna, and geologic features. The trail map also indicates how to get to Tanalian Mountain and the Beaver Pond Loop Trail.
- Telaquana Trail Guide (1994) – Alaska Geographic sales item that references points of interest hikers may encounter when walking the Telaquana Trail. The guide is primarily informative rather than interpretive.

Booklets

- "Alaska's National Parks" is published by the American Park Network annually and features two pages of Lake Clark trip planning information.
- "Clean Boating for Alaskans" (2009) is an illustrated information booklet for Alaskan vessel owners and marine operators designed to promote ocean literacy and stewardship and encourage individual action to reduce impacts to ocean

resources. The booklet is targeted to operators of small commercial vessels—including fishing boats, tenders, charter boats, tour boats, and water taxis—to offer feasible ways for Alaska’s marine operators to reduce their impacts on the marine environment and coastal ecosystems, and mitigate climate change. The project is part of the park’s outreach efforts as an ocean park and was produced in partnership with the Alaska Marine Conservation Council and the Alaska SeaGrant Marine Advisory Program.

- *Dena’ina Chalyahi Qenama* language booklet (January 2010) is a talking picture book designed for children. They can look at the pictures and hear the word spoken on a companion CD. There are about 70 fluent Dena’ina speakers. The Lake Clark Cultural Resources program added a section about Nondalton School children’s culture camp experiences.

Poster

- “They Got a Salmon in...” (2010) – poster series shows how salmon is harvested in four different communities: Newhalen, Nondalton, Iliamna, and Port Alsworth. The posters show how the message travels up stream just like the salmon. Community values, resource protection messages are revealed through the use of maps, quotes, and photographs.

Signs

In 2004, the park installed an entrance sign east of the maintenance building, a sign directing visitors from the runway to the Port Alsworth Visitor Center, and a kiosk at the Tanalian Falls trailhead. The trailhead kiosk is maintained by the Port Alsworth-based ranger and /or interpretive staff. The project also purchased carsonite trail markers for the Tanalian Falls, Tanalian Mountain, and Beaver Loop Trails.

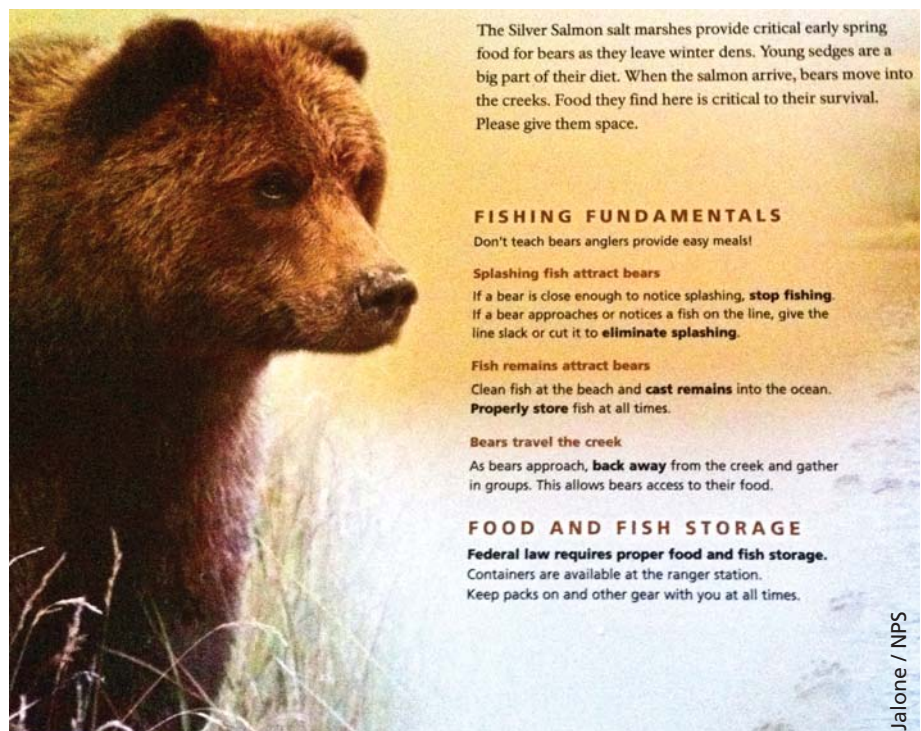
The trailhead kiosk map and sign will be replaced in summer 2010. Appropriate trail safety information has also been added.

Wayside Exhibits

There are four wayside exhibit panels located along the Sterling Highway produced by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of

Parks and Outdoor Recreation Interpretation and Education Program. One wayside exhibit panel is located in the Anchor River State Recreation Area and the other three are at highway pullouts.

In summer 2010, the park will install one newly designed wayside exhibit panel, one bulletin board, and two orientation panels at Silver Salmon Creek and another newly designed wayside exhibit panel at Chinitna Bay. The Silver Salmon Creek panel emphasizes safety while watching the bears and fishing in the creek. The Chinitna Bay panel emphasizes bear nutrition in the marsh along with bear viewing safety. Interpretive media and messages are being used to highlight three different resource management concerns: bear-human interaction, artifact collecting, and lack of awareness that visitors are within a national park.



A new wayside exhibit panel emphasizes safety while bear viewing at Silver Salmon Creek.

Exhibits

The table map is a great tool for understanding the size of the park and to see where landmarks are in relation to each other.

The Bristol Bay double-ender exhibit was developed and installed in 2006 at the Port Alsworth Visitor Center. Bristol Bay “double-ender” boats were wooden sailboats used by Bristol Bay commercial fishermen, including local commercial fishermen from Nondalton, Iliamna, Newhalen, and Pedro Bay, from the late nineteenth century to 1952. A permanent 28 x 40 foot structure built adjacent to the visitor center houses the boat as a historic interpretive exhibit. During special occasions the boat is brought outside. A historic photographic mural is located near the exhibited boat and shows historic double-enders in operation on Bristol Bay and Lake Clark. The

interpretive elements of the Bristol Bay boat appear to be working very well. Red and blue colors are used throughout the exhibit to indicate freshwater and saltwater fishing. The boat exhibit could be improved by adding a large legend defining each object in the boat and associated gear to better inform visitors about the items they are seeing. A binder with individual photos of each object with more information may also be helpful.

In summer 2010, the Pratt Museum hosted the exhibit “Sailing for Salmon: 125 Years of Commercial Fishing on Bristol Bay.” Lake Clark staff partnered with the Nushagak-Mulchatna/Wood-Tikchik Land Trust to develop the historic photographic exhibit. Guest speakers included the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve historian. The exhibit highlighted a boat restoration project and featured artifacts and

graphics describing the history and significance of double-ender sailing boats in the Bristol Bay salmon fishery.

A Dena’ina fish camp exhibit featuring a storage cache, bone rack, and drying rack are located across the road from the visitor center. A smokehouse and wall tent may be added in the future. A wayside exhibit shows the installation of the storage cache and describes the methods used to construct it. Park staff provide short talks to explain the subsistence lifestyle that is an essential part of the local culture.

Beginning in FY2010, the Denison vertical steam engine and boiler will be on exhibit. The machinery represents the adaptive re-use of equipment from a Bristol Bay commercial salmon cannery. Originally used to power parts of the Lockanok Cannery, the engine and boiler were transported by boat and dog team to Lake Clark to power a sawmill.



During special occasions, the Bristol Bay double-ender is brought outside the boathouse.

Three educational exhibits for placement in the Homer, Iliamna, and Nondalton airports and communities were designed and fabricated in 2008. The original intent of these exhibits was to highlight why Lake Clark is nationally significant, recreational opportunities in the park, safety issues, and resource preservation. The exhibits were to be portable and changeable, so that local residents would continue to look at them and learn from them. While the concept was conceived with good intentions, the proponent never contacted any of the airports listed to secure display

space. They were contracted out to Harpers Ferry Center and were nearly three years overdue because of subcontractor issues. The exhibit panels are very heavy and are not portable. There are no changeable elements. Three exhibit sets were fabricated. One is on display at the Homer airport, and the other two are in their original crates.

Chaqenq'a Dena'ina, a fish camp exhibit produced by the park and Pratt Museum in collaboration with the Ninilchik Village Tribe, Kenaitze Indian Tribe, and the Village of Nondalton, was on display during February and

March 2009 at the Pratt Museum. Some items from the exhibit pertinent to the Lake Clark region were installed at the Port Alsworth Visitor Center in 2010 and are currently on display. This multimedia exhibit includes historic and contemporary photographs, video, songs, artifacts, and well-worn objects typically found at fish camp. Visitors are given the opportunity to become immersed in a sensory experience of fish camp.



The Park Historian explains the history of the Dena'ina cache donated to the park for this exhibit in Port Alsworth.

Junior Ranger

According to the FY2009 Servicewide Interpretive Report, 70 participants completed Junior Ranger activity booklets. According to the 2008 Annual Report, 78 people participated in the 2008 National Junior Ranger Day event held in Homer.

Junior Ranger Journey booklets were printed in 2008. Upon completion of the booklet, it can be mailed in to receive a certificate and badge. The age range for this booklet is 4th grade and up. It is available for distribution at the park sponsored bi-weekly illustrated programs held at the Alaska Islands and Oceans Visitor Center, by request, and at appropriate special events. It has also been taken out to the Tanalian School in Port Alsworth and the Nondalton School where the booklet was used in the classrooms.

Where There Are Bears! (2008) is targeted to children ages 8 to 12 years. It was created for the park as a companion piece to the Pratt Museum bear cam. At the time the booklet was produced, the bear cam was located at the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary, so the text was kept intentionally generic. It has also been taken out to the Tanalian School in Port Alsworth and the Nondalton School where the booklet was used in the classrooms.



Lake Clark Chief Ranger swears in new Junior Rangers at a Homer event.

Interpretive Media Assets

Media assets include other park resources available to interpretation that support the design of personal services programs or interpretive media.

Artifact Collection

The Lake Clark National Park and Preserve museum collection consists of more than 200,000 objects including an herbarium collection to the many journals, letters, and objects from Dick Proenneke. Collections staff also care for archeological artifacts from extensive surveys, over 2,000 historic photographs, a rich collection of oral history interviews, fossils, the park's archives, preserved small mammals, and other items reflecting the cultural and natural history of this unique place.

The park's Scope of Collections was revised in 2009-10.

Park Library

"Where We Found a Whale": A History of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (October 2008)

West Cook Inlet: Ethnographic Overview and Assessment for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (December 2006)

The Canneries, Cabins, and Caches of Bristol Bay Alaska (second printing June 2009)

Snug Harbor Cannery: A Beacon on the Forgotten Shore 1919-1980 (June 2005)

Nanutset ch'u Q'udi Gu (Before our Time and Now): An Ethnohistory of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (December 2007)

"Do Things Right the First Time": Administrative History The National Park Service and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980

Alaska Subsistence: A National Park Service Management History

Books currently in development include a John Clark biography, a history of Kijik, and the geology of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.



Port Alsworth-based interpretive staff provide programs on many different topics.

Personal Services

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve currently has two separate and distinct education and interpretation programs. One is based in Port Alsworth and the other in Homer. There is little or no overlap between the programs including content and staffing.

Education

Port Alsworth

Park staff members go to the Port Alsworth and Nondalton K-12 schools to present programs on topics such as Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, cultural history, boating safety, water safety, survival skills, junior ranger booklets, bear safety, storytelling, and animal tracks. Dena'ina Language classes are being taught twice a year. The classes infrequently come to the visitor center. Approximately 40 students are contacted at each school.

Park staff used the Office of Boating Safety curriculum to present a "Kids Don't Float" boating safety activity day in Port Alsworth and Nondalton.

The park collaborated with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Alaska Division of Forestry to help train teachers, youth group leaders, home school parents, and others throughout southwest Alaska to use the Project Learning Tree and Project WILD curricula which are designed for pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. In 2008, the park sponsored a workshop for 11 people in Port Alsworth using the kindergarten through 12th grade curricula, and helped

teach two workshops (one pre-kindergarten and another kindergarten through 12th grade) in Kodiak for another 45 participants. The program is funded through the State of Alaska, and the park participates as a partner. Both curricula have been around for about 20 years and are used extensively for environmental education programs nationwide. Project Learning Tree emphasizes topics related to trees, forests and forest ecology, and Project WILD emphasizes birds, fish, wildlife, and their habitats.

In 2008, park staff partnered with Becharof National Wildlife Refuge to offer a Science Camp. The Port Alsworth park guide used materials from Project WILD and Project Learning Tree to develop programs for approximately eight high-school aged students. The camp was held on Becharof Lake in the Becharof Refuge.

In FY2006 the park partnered with the Alaska Office of Boating Safety to offer a boating safety course at Paul Banks Elementary School during Water Safety Week in April. Ninety students in kindergarten through second grade attended.

In FY2006, the park partnered with the University of Alaska at Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service, Alaska 4-H Program and NOAA to offer a ten-day summer science camp for high school students from the Kenai Peninsula. Ten students participated in the program which focused on marine and freshwater ecology and stream habitat assessment.

In FY2006, park staff representing interpretation, subsistence, cultural, and natural resource programs provided support and presented programs for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute group who visited Port Alsworth to learn about the park, its natural and cultural histories and Dena'ina culture. This was a pilot program that was not continued in subsequent years because of funding and the availability of similar programs offered by other local non-profit organizations in Homer.

In FY2009 the park piloted an archaeological field camp for eight Anchorage-based Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) students. The camp provided participants' opportunities to visit and explore a remote Alaska park, learn about its significance and cultural history, and actively participate in an important archaeological project. The students helped to excavate an ancient campsite in Hardenberg Bay and assisted with an ongoing site survey of Old Kijik Village. Each YCC student spent a week in Port Alsworth to learn about the sites, the people who used them, and basic archaeological theory and field methods. The Alaska Regional Office did not hire YCC students in FY2010, so the funding allocated for the program was returned.

Homer

Education outreach is provided through classroom visits offering illustrated programs on a topic of the teacher's choice (geology, volcanoes, endangered species, ecosystems, Lake Clark National Park, aquatic insects, or bear/moose safety) that is related to a curriculum topic being addressed by the teacher. Most programs are aligned with the curriculum standards of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District and appropriate for fourth and fifth grade students. In 2008, the park collaborated with one teacher on a Lake Clark Art contest. The winning piece was used to represent Lake Clark in an NPS calendar.

Large group education events are presented in collaboration with the Kachemak Bay Education Alliance Partners: Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, Pratt Museum, Alaska Maritime National

Wildlife Refuge, and the Center For Alaskan Coastal Studies. Annual events include: 7th Grade Day of Science (100 students), Paul Banks Elementary Math and Science Night (approximately 200 contacts with students and their parents), Planktonfest Discovery Lab (approximately 150 adults and children), National Estuaries Day, and local home school group events at the Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center.

Programs for visiting school groups are offered in collaboration with Kachemak Bay Research Reserve, Pratt Museum, and the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and the park provides staff support and assistance. Because Lake Clark National Park and Preserve is a microcosm of subarctic Alaskan ecosystems, it is easy to align park and partner themes. Topics may include Kachemak Bay Research Reserve:

estuarine ecology, coastal ecology, and intertidal ecology; Pratt Museum: intertidal ecology, mammalogy (terrestrial and marine), and bird adaptations; and Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge: shorebird ecology.

If a classroom in Homer is scheduled to visit Exit Glacier at Kenai Fjords National Park, the Lake Clark Education Specialist presents the pre-visit presentation.

Special Events and Community Programs

Over 150 people attended the opening of the 2009 summer season at Port Alsworth. The event included a dedication for the new fish camp outdoor exhibit, volunteer recognition, and a performance by the *Nu'vendaltin* Shadow Dancers.

Port Alsworth staff have periodically organized community clean up events which have been very successful both in turnout and trash collected. Some community programs are more popular than others. Coffee cup chats have been held in the winter with 45-50 people in attendance.



Education outreach in Homer is provided through classroom visits.

Personal Services Programs

Port Alsworth Visitor Center

Orientation talks are given to all visitors. The talks are very informal and are usually presented near the table map. 45-50% of visitors return to ask more questions.

One-hour children's programs are offered on Wednesdays including edible plants, insects, bears, and Leave No Trace.

In FY2007, programs were offered to over one hundred community members on topics that included: Insect Discovery, Edible Plants, Leave No Trace, Dena'ina Beading, and Tremendous Trees. A kiosk presentation was developed on bear safety.

Pratt Museum

The park began providing informal interpretation of the Pratt Museum's bear cam in FY2005. From 2005-2007 the camera was located in the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and the project included a video stream on the National Geographic Wild Cam site. A park interpreter answered viewer questions on the website's forum. Beginning in FY2008, park staff provided informal interpretive programs on the behavior and ecology of Alaskan brown bears through a remote video project based out of the Brooks Camp in Katmai National Park and Preserve. Currently, the camera is located at Brooks River Falls in Katmai National Park. In FY2009, the bear cam was only briefly carried on the Pratt Museum's website so a link was not added to the park's website.

In 2009, three Youth Conservation Corps interns were hired for eleven weeks to develop, deliver, and evaluate interpretive programs highlighting the cultural heritages and natural resources of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve and the Lower Cook Inlet region. The interns were based at the Pratt Museum and mentored by Lake Clark and Pratt Museum staff to independently develop short interpretive programs for families and children visiting the museum. They received introductory training in interpretation and interpretive techniques through the NPS

sponsored online courses. Each intern presented at least one interpretive program per week to develop their interpretive skills, and produced a podcast on a natural history topic of their choice.

Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center

Since FY2005, the park has provided interpretive services for both partners at the Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center – the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve. The majority of services are delivered during the summer season.



Park interpreters provide hands-on activities at the Alaska Islands and Oceans Visitor Center.

Programs offered in collaboration with the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge:

Since 2005 talks on glaciers and volcanoes have consistently been presented. An illustrated talk on bears was presented in 2005, but not offered in subsequent years in order to give staff more time interpreting the bear cam at the Pratt Museum. In 2010, an illustrated talk introducing Lake Clark National Park and Preserve was added to the schedule and drew 111 visitors over the summer. The room capacity limits the number of visitors to 40 per program. The programs were revised and updated in 2010 to include climate change information, new information on Redoubt's recent activity, and to have more of a focus on Lake Clark. They were originally created to include themes from three national parks – Lake Clark, Katmai, and Kenai Fjords. Twelve to sixteen two-hour guided tide pool walks are offered at Bishop's Beach during low tides in June, July, and August. Beach walks are offered once a week.

Programs offered in collaboration with Kachemak Bay Research Reserve:

Interpretive staff assist the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve with Discovery Labs which are offered three times a week during the summer and monthly during the winter. The programs consist of eight tables in a laboratory classroom with multiple activities on each table focused on the given topic of the day (crabs,

fish, echinoderms, watersheds, tides and currents). In 2009, a Discovery Lab was developed and delivered by park staff on the glaciers and volcanoes of the local region including Lake Clark. This lab included fourteen hands-on activities, three interpretive posters, and three interactive activities. The lab was presented four times and was requested for the summer 2010.

Anchor River State Recreation Area – Anchor Point

In FY2009 and FY2010 four two-hour Junior Ranger activities and guided walks were offered on select Saturdays in June and July by park staff at Halibut Campground. Each day junior rangers had the opportunity to explore one of four ecosystems available at the site; beach, estuary, river and forest. Participation numbers are low,

but the site still has potential as an excellent and otherwise unused area for engaging children in the outdoors.

Baycrest Pullout – Sterling Highway above Homer

Park interpreters provide local area orientation and informal interpretation of the geology of lower Cook Inlet. Visitors can see Iliamna Volcano from the overlook. Weather permitting, park staff are stationed there daily from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. June through the beginning of August. Originally, a formal ranger talk was offered, but it was determined that the site was better suited to informal contacts.



Junior Ranger activities at Anchor Point engage children in the outdoors.

Staffing

The Interpretation Division staff includes the GS-343-12 Program Manager, one GS-1071-9 Education Specialist (Environmental Education), one GS-303-7 Subsistence Coordinator, one GS-025-5 Park Ranger, and up to three GS-090-4 seasonal Park Guides.

The GS-343-12 Program Manager's time is divided between Interpretation and Subsistence responsibilities. In addition to Lake Clark, she is also the Subsistence Program Manager for Katmai National Park and Preserve and Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve.

The GS-1701-9 Education Specialist, originally stationed in Homer, was moved to Anchorage for a short time, and now has been relocated back to Homer. During the summer, two GS-090-4 Park Guides are based in Homer. One GS-025-5 Park Ranger is based in Port Alsworth. The GS-303-7 Subsistence Coordinator in Port Alsworth provides interpretive programming specifically related to Dena'ina culture and language. Ten percent of the Park Historian's time is spent on interpretation.

In 2009, having the two park guides and education specialist in Homer, allowed for increased coverage at up to three different contact sites simultaneously, seven days a week throughout June, July and August.

The Port Alsworth Visitor Center is primarily staffed by the GS-025-5 Park Ranger with assistance from a Student Conservation Association (SCA) intern. The SCA intern provides visitor services and supports the GS-5 park ranger with meeting and greeting the public, providing information about the park, and developing programs and presentations. The internship lasts twelve weeks from mid-June to early September.



Homer-based interpretive staff provide informal interpretation on bear behavior while operating a remote video camera at the Pratt Museum.

Partnerships

Partners

Pratt Museum: Lake Clark National Park and Preserve and the Pratt Museum have a formal partnership to develop and deliver interpretive programs and products that explore the natural environment, cultures and human experience of the Lower Cook Inlet region of Alaska.

Alaska Islands and Oceans Visitor Center: The visitor center is operated and maintained by a partnership between the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve and Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. Lake Clark interpretive staff provides interpretive programs on glaciers, volcanoes, bears, and Alaska's intertidal ecosystems at the visitor center.

Commercial Use Authorizations (CUA)

Almost every visitor to Lake Clark National Park and Preserve utilizes one or more commercial operators, unless they are a local resident or own their own plane. Visitors use air taxi services, lodges, guide services (fishing, hunting, or river trip), bear viewing tours, or flightseeing tours. There are over 60 commercial operators authorized in Lake Clark. The operators offer a variety of levels of service and a variety of information about the park and its resources. A list of commercial operators is available on the park website.

In 2009, the park began distributing a newsletter and established a Silver Salmon Creek Guide Program. The guide program was developed to ensure appropriate and consistent behavior among guides and to minimize adverse impacts on the bears and their habitat. Interpretive skills were not included in the initial training sessions.

The CUA Handbook includes General Management Plan Foundation Statement and regulations. There is no interpretive section in the handbook.



The Twin Lakes area is a popular destination for guided fishing trips.

Alaska Geographic

A retail outlet is located at Port Alsworth Visitor Center. The Scope of Sales was reviewed in May 2008. Annual sales are approximately \$2,500. Consequently, the percentage of sales returned to the park as direct support funds is nominal.

Park-specific sales items include “Alone in the Wilderness”

DVD, *One Man’s Wilderness*, *More Readings from One Man’s Wilderness*, *Lake Clark National Park and Preserve*, maps, magnets, pins, bookmarks, postcards, stickers, tee shirts, and hats.

Volunteer Program

According to the FY09 Volunteer Report eighteen volunteers provided 208 hours of service for interpretation. The *Nu’veendaltin* Shadow Dancers, performed for a park community celebration and one volunteer contributed 72 hours of informal interpretation in Homer contacting visitors at the Baycrest Pullout.

The Education Specialist is also the park’s volunteer coordinator. Multiple collateral duties, as well as the demand of interpretive and education responsibilities, limits the amount of time available to devote to developing the volunteer program.

One of the volunteer program challenges is that more people volunteer for backcountry assignments than there are positions available. Capacity to provide volunteer housing, program support, and reimbursements is also a concern.



Backcountry volunteers provide invaluable support to Lake Clark National Park and Preserve.



Wasserman / NPS

Part Three: Recommendations

Interpretive planning assesses current conditions and formulates recommendations that will provide direction and focus to achieve the desired future interpretive program. A long-range interpretive plan analyzes all needs and recommends a wide array of interpretive services, facilities, programs, and opportunities for partnerships to communicate in the most efficient and effective way the park's purpose and significance.

Goals for Interpretive Programming

The Goals for Interpretive Programming are designed to realize the vision, objectives, themes, and visitor experiences described in the Foundation for Planning section. The following principles will apply to all interpretation at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve:

- All interpretation will address physical and programmatic accessibility.
- Where possible, interpretation will use reproduction objects and documented personal stories to bring the story to life for visitors.
- Where possible, the park will partner with neighboring institutions to develop programs, media, and share research.
- The park will follow the standards of the National Park Service Graphic Identity Program as signs and interpretive media are upgraded.

- Interpretation will include examples and perspectives from diverse points of view. It will respond to diverse audiences, varying levels of interest, and different lengths of time for a visit.
- Where possible, “virtual visitors” will have opportunities to view key park vistas and access to new research, studies, management plans, and historical information.

Workshop participants identified goals to enhance the effectiveness of the interpretive services within Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. These goals and associated actions are representative of many ideas generated during the workshop. Action items are listed below each goal, and were used to create the Implementation Plan located in the next section of this document. Over the next seven to ten years Lake Clark National Park and Preserve will focus on the following goals:

Develop Marketing Strategies and Improve Orientation

An important goal for providing interpretive services over the next 7 to 10 years is to improve orientation and access to park information. No unified sign system exists to clearly identify park historic sites, or provide information and clear directions to park sites. Before visitors can have a meaningful park experience, they need to find their way to the park, determine where the experience begins, and take care of their basic needs. Visitor experience issues such as agency identity and orientation must be addressed before interpretation can begin. Effective signs as well as orientation and information are the first steps toward satisfying these basic visitor needs.

Due to multiple departure and arrival points, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve has very different challenges than many other parks. It can be a challenge to ensure that the information on how to safely enjoy the park and park resources is easily accessible to all visitors. Because of the multiple entry points and the numbers of people travelling by commercial and private plane, visitors using park resources may not ever make contact with park staff. In the future as connections to other sites and destinations are added, the challenge will increase.

Park staff should work with partners and commercial use operators to identify potential solutions including:

- Develop virtual trip planners featuring comprehensive information that identifies transportation service providers such as air taxis and private planes, trip options, suggested routes of travel, types of opportunities available (hiking, rafting, fishing, and bear viewing), outdoor ethics, and safety.
- Conduct a market analysis to develop a marketing plan. Currently park marketing strategies are not focused or coordinated. Commercial use operators market their services independently of each other and the park. The plan will determine the level of park identity needed at different locations.
- Offer a short orientation film to be shown at airport hubs and gateway entry points.

Other marketing options include:

- Designing, fabricating, and installing wayfinding and NPS arrowhead signs in Port Alsworth.
- Developing a new exhibit in cooperation with partners at the Homer airport.
- Designing, fabricating, and installing NPS arrowhead signs in Homer.

Connect to Virtual Visitors

Since Lake Clark was established in 1978, significant changes in digital technology, in DOI/NPS web standards, and in social media have occurred. During the life of this plan, park staff will need to continually increase and improve their skills with the technology, monitor and update all web-based content to meet the current standard, and remain vigilant about what is posted via social media sites.

An ever-increasing percentage of park visitors are web users who visit Lake Clark National Park and Preserve (www.nps.gov/lacl) seeking information. Many of these “virtual visitors” never actually come to the park, but have their needs met solely through the website. The website should highlight the opportunities and experiences that are available to both on-site visitors and virtual visitors. Visitors should be able to access material related to all park interpretive themes. Cross-linking to partner websites and reference sites is strongly recommended.

Specific recommendations include:

- Designate a single webmaster to manage, update, and revise the park website.
- Improve and expand backcountry trip planning information.
- Coordinate with the park curator to develop and post online exhibits using park collections including an “object of the month” display.
- Partner with the Pratt Museum to provide a live interpretive feed that accompanies the Bearcam. Ultimately add a question and answer session as well as a two-way virtual conversation to the program.
- Develop and post a videocast of the volunteers giving a tour of the Proenneke cabin.
- Develop social media opportunities such as Facebook.
- Develop interactive maps that provide a variety of information including trip planning and location and timing of salmon runs.
- Develop and offer electronic trips including Lake Clark Pass, along a river, up to Tanalian Falls, on the Telaquana Trail, and to the Proenneke cabin.
- Develop and post Lake Clark Minutes – short videocasts on a variety of topics
- Explore the feasibility of installing a Tanalian Mountain cam, salmon cam and a Dall sheep cam.

Upgrade and Improve Interpretive Services at the Port Alsworth Visitor Center Complex

Within the next few years, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve will upgrade and improve the interpretive services at the Port Alsworth Visitor Center complex. This is the gateway for most visitors who fly into the park. There are many separate interpretive services currently being offered. During the recommendations workshop, the team discussed how to integrate these services into a seamless visitor experience that would include the visitor center, the boathouse, and the fish camp exhibit. The ultimate goal would be to create a visitor flow pattern, a cohesive message, and a unified visitor experience. The resource will be allowed to tell the stories along with the media.

An exhibit design plan is needed to address current themes, remove ineffective messages, and upgrade all features to meet NPS standards. All components must be accessible and include

captioning and assistive listening for all audiovisual components with sound and audio description for all video elements. Appendix B refers to the NPS Accessibility Guidelines.

The design plan will also reflect the function of the visitor center to orient visitors to the park and its resources, services, and attractions as well as interpret the park's stories and provide opportunities for personal connections to resource meanings and significance as described by interpretive themes. The story elements will be identified that are best told by interpretive media, and provide a human point of contact as well as a special and visual identity for the park.

Specific recommendations include:

- Develop an exhibit design plan that includes Dena'ina culture exhibits, activity area, fish camp, salmon, a dedicated theater space, an orientation space, porch spaces, and considers levels of access.

- Offer flexible program times and scheduled evening programs to better accommodate visitors.
- Schedule an evening program one day a week focusing on what to do and where to go.
- Explore the possibility of an audio station at the cache exhibit- possibly housed in a Blazo box - that features elders talking about the cache and bone racks.
- Add a smoke house and wall tent to the fish camp area.
- Add a platform or possibly tilt the double-ender to make it easier for people to see inside the boat.
- Develop a flip book about the Bristol Bay double-enders.
- Develop a new outdoor exhibit using the steam boiler and sawmill based on historic photographs, oral histories, and other sources of information.
- Develop a soundscape of boat use and cannery operations in the boat house.
- Develop illustrated programs on fish and Lake Clark's relationship with salmon.
- Use the whole boat house to tell the stories and show connections to water and the lake. Use children's paintings/drawings/mural of salmon on side of boat house that faces the cache.
- Create wall mounted exhibits and displays for the interior of the boat house.
- Fabricate and install new exhibits.
- Produce a 10-15 minute film about Lake Clark National Park and Preserve that provides an overview/introduction to the park.



Park staff will explore the possibility of installing an audio station that will allow visitors to hear elders talking about the cache and bone racks.

Upgrade and Improve Site-specific Interpretation

Richard Proenneke Historic Site

As one of the most popular sites within the park, workshop participants strongly recommended that the cabin be staffed during the peak visitor season either with volunteers or NPS employees. For those visitors who arrive during the other seasons, develop a self-guided tour brochure and place them near the guest book. All visitors will then have increased opportunities to learn about Dick Proenneke and his special place.

Lake Clark Pass

Most visitors coming to the park will go through Lake Clark Pass. Seeing and later remembering the scenic grandeur of the mountain peaks is a significant part of their experience. A social networking site, digital recordings, and/or a printed volume that present the stories of travel through Lake

Clark Pass will allow visitors to share their experiences. Even armchair travelers could discover what it was like to be one of the first travelers through the pass to contemporary air travelers. This project could be modeled after the Alaska Communities of Memory (Project Jukebox) project conducted by University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Trails

There are few formal trails located within the park. Most visitors choose their own path. For those visitors who do want more structure or are looking for a guided experience, park staff may offer informal walks on plants and animals at a set time once a week as well as develop a series of digital tours that visitors can download to their portable electronic devices.

Historic Cabins

Rehabilitation projects at the Priest Rock, Hardenburg Bay, and Snipe Lake cabins should be

completed in 2010. Backcountry use planning is scheduled to begin in October 2010, and may articulate how these resources will be used. Workshop participants recommended that the historic cabins be utilized as outdoor education centers for youth groups, Elderhostel groups, and others. Another option that might be explored by the backcountry planning team is a hut-to-hut experience and/or rent-a-cabin experience.

Kijik Archeological District National Historic Landmark

Workshop participants recommended, in deference to the inland Dena'ina Athabascan people who continue to live in the Lake Clark area and the existence of private land in the Kijik area, that interpretive services at Kijik be limited to escorted programs only. Park staff may offer a program at Kijik once a week or once a month during peak season.



Wasserman / NPS

Interpretive services at Kijik will be limited to escorted programs only.

Improve Existing Interpretive Programs

Interpreters are the best interactive tool in enabling visitors to experience, understand, appreciate, and make personal connections with the resource. Roving interpreters along the bluff at the Baycrest Pullout, at the storage cache in Port Alsworth, and in other park areas will increase opportunities to help visitors make personal connections with Lake Clark National Park and Preserve resources. Interpretive training on informal visitor contacts and park information and themes for backcountry volunteers will also help to inform and orient visitors who are accessing the park's remote areas.

The diversity of the park's resources and themes presents almost limitless opportunities for both standard and innovative interpretive activities. As staffing levels permit, and in keeping within the parameters of the interpretive themes and visitor experience goals, interpreters should be given a high degree of creative freedom to explore and experiment with new programs.

There is great potential to experiment with the development of programs related to natural and cultural connections between the eastern and western coasts of Cook Inlet. Since personal services interpretive programs are relatively easy to change, the activities should be evaluated on a regular basis to discontinue those that are not effective, modify or improve those that require it, and validate those that are successful.

Increase Interpretive Opportunities in Homer

Building on the successful interpretive programs and services currently being offered, specific recommendations were identified that would increase interpretive opportunities in Homer. Many visitors who come to Homer will look across Cook Inlet and see the park, and yet will never be able to visit it. Creating a strong interpretive base in Homer will allow the park to engage visitors and reveal the natural and cultural connections between the eastern and western coasts of Cook Inlet.

Pratt Museum

- Emphasize shared stories between Dena'ina on the Kenai Peninsula and Dena'ina of Lake Clark. Explain connections between the west and east coast of Cook Inlet, and the connections between people and the land.
- Develop Phase 2 of the Fish Camp exhibit to show Dena'ina cultural similarities and differences.
- Increase NPS outdoor programming.
- Identify opportunities to use the Pratt Museum's future multi-purpose room.
- Explore opportunities to use the existing museum building for future park programming.
- Develop a program about fish camp using digital media.
- Explore possibilities to show *Dena'ina Qeshqa* film and produce an exhibit connected to the film.



Wasserman / NPS

Ranger-guided tide walks at Anchor Point offer opportunities to connect visitors to the natural and cultural resources on both sides of Cook Inlet, including Lake Clark National Park.

- Explore the possibilities of developing an exhibit and/or programs that show how the subsistence story (caribou, black bear, beaver, and moose hunting) has changed over time.

Sterling Highway/Scenic Overlook

- Explore potential media opportunities to interpret park stories.
- Consider acquiring property along the Sterling Highway to establish pullouts.
- Develop and post a virtual geocaching site.
- Explore opportunities for CUAs to expand Homer-based commercial operations.
- Create a mobile visitor center/contact vehicle.
- Develop, fabricate, and install new wayside exhibit panels at locations that describe the viewshed and provide context for park stories such as the Mosaic of Landforms and the Native peoples of the Kenai Peninsula and their connections to the Dena'ina people of Lake Clark.
- Offer boat tours to Chisik Island and Snug Harbor. This service could be park/partnered sponsored or a commercial service.
- Develop the idea of the park's coastal area as the Eastern gateway to the park.

Alaska Islands and Oceans Visitor Center

- Continue to develop relationships with the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve.
- Schedule NPS staff time at the visitor center desk.
- Develop programs on weather and climate change.
- Emphasize natural history and ecological connections.
- Collaborate on a program about Chisik Island (common boundary), maritime geography, and the rookery. These are areas that connect to the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.



Creating a mobile visitor center would allow park interpreters to contact more visitors at Baycrest Overlook and at other sites along the Sterling Highway.

Expand Existing and Develop New Educational Opportunities

An effective park education program requires adequate staff for planning, development, implementation, and assessment. The resources and themes of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve offer great potential for the development of dynamic and popular education program in partnership with area schools, agencies, museums, and local resident zones.

While the park does have a full-time GS-1701-9 Education Specialist position, responsibilities have primarily focused on providing interpretive services, supervising seasonal employees, and collateral duties including volunteer coordinator and web manager. A well designed and run park education program generally depends on a full-time education position. The primary role of the specialist is to secure resources to facilitate the development and growth of a curriculum-based program based on national and state education standards.

Future growth of the park education program is primarily contingent upon hiring additional interpretive staff that would allow the Education Specialist (see Staffing section) to:

- Strengthen message of cultural connections between Kenai Peninsula and Lake Clark.
- Develop stronger relationships with teachers in the Kenai school district.
- Develop in collaboration with Pratt Museum and distribute a K-12 Dena'ina archeology traveling kit and participate in a culture camp/week.
- Write PMIS requests (Challenge Cost Share, Parks as Classroom, and Recreation Fee) to develop education products and programs.
- Integrate programs with those offered by the Pratt Museum. Cultural history is the most requested program.
- Establish connections with the Kenaitze and Ninilchik Tribes, and create opportunities for elders to be involved in education programs.
- Increase opportunities to utilize Pratt interns.

- Use video conferencing to integrate both park cultural and natural resource experts into presentations.
- Develop volcano lesson plans in cooperation with the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.
- Write and present natural resource-themed lesson plans.
- Explore the possibility of utilizing the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program.
- Develop standards-based lessons and web-based teaching tools for use in schools. Make them available statewide.
- Use Homer as a base for Kenai education programs because it already is a field trip destination.
- Develop Teaching with Historic Places lesson plans.
- Create a virtual classroom.
- Offer webinars.

With a strong program and ties directly to local, state, and national curriculum standards, more schools will see the value of using the park to help meet their needs. This can be accomplished by involving educators from area schools directly in the development of both general and specific activities and curriculum guides.

Use Interpretation and Education to Address Resource and Safety Concerns

Most parks advocate the use of interpretation and education as a foundation for promoting stewardship, protecting resources and providing for a safe visitor experience. Workshop participants recommended a blend of interpretive programs and media to address resource and safety concerns at Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. Bear-human interactions, especially at Silver Salmon Creek and Chinitna Bay, boating safety, wilderness safety, subsistence use, and artifact collecting are significant concerns that park staff must address on an almost daily basis during the peak visitor season. New wayside exhibit panels have been installed to address the bear-human interactions and boating safety and Leave No Trace interpretive and education programs are being presented, however, much more needs to be done.

Specific recommendations include:

- Make stronger connections between past and present fishing techniques including catch and release.
- Offer subsistence programs on topics most requested by communities.
- Make stronger connections between Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly wilderness programs and traditional Dena'ina principles.
- Create a boating safety reward program for those “caught” wearing a personal flotation device.

- Offer the boating safety program to all local resident zone communities.
- Place more emphasis on reaching Port Alsworth youth with conservation messages about the park and preserve.
- Offer boating safety and resource related training programs such as Leave No Trace to increase the instructor cadre so more programs can be presented in the local communities.
- Partner with the Pratt Museum to add a question and answer session as well as a two-way virtual conversation to the Bearcam program.
- Produce subsistence programs using digital media on topics most requested by communities.

Maintain and Grow Existing Partnerships and Explore New Partnerships

Interpretive partnerships play a key role in the delivery of essential programs and can also provide opportunities for enhanced interpretive products and services. Partnerships are most effective when partners share a common goal and can leverage their efforts to accomplish the goal.

Specific recommendations include:

- Maintain and grow existing partnerships (Homer, Nondalton Tribal Council, Kijik Corporation, Lake Clark National Park Subsistence Resource Commission, and Kenai Peninsula and Lake and

Peninsula school districts), Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Nushagak-Mulchatna/ Wood-Tikchik Land Trust, and Alaska State Parks.

- Explore new partnerships (University of Alaska Fairbanks Bristol Bay Campus, Alaska Native Heritage Center, Alaska Channel, international sister parks, Medallion Foundation, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and Alaska Airmen's Association.
- Explore options for partnering on grants and other forms of funding.
- Form a stronger partnership with Alaska Volcano Observatory and increase interpretive opportunities.
- Develop opportunities for interpretive training and resource exchanges.
- Build capacity for managing formal partnerships through training in contracting and agreements.
- Explore possibilities for detail assignments.
- Develop a partnership to offer natural and cultural history field workshops that develop park themes including Nondalton, Newhalen, and Pedro Bay.
- Conduct survey work and protect the Old Nondalton site with Kijik Corporation and Nondalton Tribal Council.
- Explore the possibility of designating a “sister” park in Japan or another similar international park to develop common themes and broader understanding.
- Develop partnerships for safety programs, curriculum delivery and summer field youth institutes.

Expand Existing and Develop New Opportunities to Engage Youth

Most interpretive services are developed for a general audience. During the lifetime of this plan, workshop participants strongly recommended that Lake Clark National Park and Preserve address Secretary Salazar's "Engaging Youth" initiative to best meet the needs of young people and provide them with opportunities to discover the significance of park resources.

Specific recommendations include:

- Distribute the junior ranger booklet (Lake Clark Pass) at gateway locations and encourage youth to visit the Port Alsworth Visitor Center to receive their badge.
- Partner with local resident zone communities to provide interpretive hiking and camping experiences.
- Develop Girl and Boy Scout programs.
- Develop an outreach camp at Kijik geared toward youth that incorporates responsible camping, safety, outdoor survival, and traditional subsistence including a winter camp for beaver trapping.
- Offer summer field institutes for local youth.
- Coordinate with other local partners to develop an in-park children's program that teaches subsistence skills, outdoor ethics, and promotes stronger cultural connections.



Park staff will coordinate with local partners to develop in-park programs that engage youth.

Fully Integrate Commercial Services into the Interpretive Program

Staff members are beginning to develop stronger relationships with the commercial use operators authorized within Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. During the lifetime of this plan, workshop participants recommended that commercial services be fully integrated into the interpretive program.

Specific recommendations to integrate commercial services into interpretation:

- Establish a commercial services recognition program.
- Strengthen all communications between

the park and commercial use authorization holders (CUAs). Communication methods include the use of print media, web pages, digital media, and personal contact.

- Use current relationships with hunt guide contract holders to develop and distribute interpretive materials. Initially this would include making sure the hunt guides have copies of the park's most current materials.
- Continue to offer to make presentations at the lodges, by park staff or guest speakers.
- Revitalize and expand the Silver Salmon Creek Guide Program.

- Conduct a needs assessment to determine best practices for the park and CUAs to work together more effectively. Work with CUAs to determine how to best reach visitors with park messages and printed materials.
- Select materials to produce in cooperation with commercial services partners including flight guide, new maps, and a partner brochure.
- Distribute a rack card to all CUAs that interprets Lake Clark Pass.
- Distribute rack cards to all CUAs on other suggested topics of interest such as: salmon life history, the significance of Lake Clark to the Bristol Bay red salmon fishery, important water bodies of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, and life cycles of major wildlife species that may be commonly viewed in the park.
- Develop a thematic (Mountain Landscape/ Wilderness, Mosaic Landforms, Cultural Tapestry) audio tour that CUAs could offer visitors coming through Lake Clark Pass
- Collaborate with CUAs to create a self-guided aviation tour where people can pick up a brochure/map at Merrill Field and be able to follow their flight along Cook Inlet, through Lake Clark Pass to Port Alsworth.
- Collaborate with CUAs to develop a video about best practices for bear viewing on the coast and other resource issues.



Kent Miller / NPS VIP

A self-guided aviation tour brochure could enhance the visitors' experience as they travel into and around the park.

Expand the Volunteer Program

The Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) program could be enhanced with more dedicated NPS supervision, providing VIP accommodations, and an increase in VIP funding. An effort to enhance and expand the participation of local volunteers would be beneficial.

A well-designed and well-run park volunteer program generally depends on establishing a Volunteer Coordinator position. This role has been a collateral duty assignment for the GS-1709-9 Education Specialist (Environmental Education), but to be truly effective it should be a full-time position. The primary role of the coordinator will be to facilitate the retention of current volunteers as well as the development and growth of the volunteer program.

Specific recommendations include:

- Develop and implement a retention strategy that will include creating and maintaining a database of volunteers; updating position descriptions and determining how many volunteers are needed for each task; communicating the length of assignment when recruiting volunteers to minimize turnover; working with partners to reduce competition for volunteers; and working with park staff to ensure that there is adequate oversight and support for volunteers. Recognize volunteer achievements.
- Develop a needs assessment by program area for volunteers. Identifying what tasks park staff need volunteer help with will provide the coordinator with the necessary information to successfully recruit. The assessment also would help identify potential individuals or group skills that might be needed. For example, youth groups may be identified who have an interest and skill in developing web-based services. High school students may get academic credit for volunteering.
- Develop a standard operating procedure for signing up a volunteer.
- Develop a training checklist and materials for existing volunteers.
- Develop meaningful short-term volunteer opportunities.
- Develop a volunteer page on the park website with personal stories, photos, and a link to a volunteer application form.
- Investigate additional partner sources for volunteers and training (e.g. Tribes, Alaska Native Heritage Center, Native non-profit corporations, YMCA, YWCA, National Outdoor Leadership School, seniors, and retirees).
- Improve ways to provide enrichment experiences including working at or traveling to other locations.
- Develop a mentoring program that pairs experienced volunteers with new applicants.

Research and Evaluation Needs

All interpretive programs and services must be solidly grounded in research. In order to fully accomplish the actions included in this plan and support the interpretive themes, the park needs current scientific information on a variety of topics such as:

- Predator-prey relationships for wolves and bears.
- Shorezone Mapping Project that is photomapping the entire coastline of Cook Inlet (<http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/habitat/shorezone/szintro.htm>).
- Park-specific effects of climate change and how they are being monitored.

The interpretive program and staff would both benefit from a working relationship with the park's resource programs and the Inventory and Monitoring Program to gain insight into current park research. The staff

could assist these programs with understanding the role of the park's interpretive program and how interpreters can help communicate the results of their work to the visiting public.

Evaluation is also important in the development of specific media and programs and should be planned as part of all substantial media projects and special programming. Front-end evaluation will inform the project team about what visitors already know about the site before they come, what understandings they may have about the significance of the site, or how to fulfill the visitor's interest in visiting the site. This type of evaluative study is targeted so that practical use can be made of the results. Formative evaluations allow the team to get feedback on project content before it is fabricated. Knowing how potential visitors react to stories and information or even how the message is

displayed can inform and enhance the media product and the overall visitor experience. Summative evaluations are valuable in helping to determine the effectiveness of final media, facilities, and programs – i.e. whether the intended themes are being communicated, if people are actually making use of the information, or if visitor behavior is affected. Summative evaluation may even be a necessary follow-up for certain sources of funding such as foundation grants.

In order to fully accomplish the actions included in this plan, the park needs to evaluate the following:

- Future development of the Port Alsworth Visitor Center complex.
- Interpretive services currently being offered in Homer and Port Alsworth to determine how they might become more effective and efficient.



Wasserman / NPS

Evaluating interpretive programming at Homer and Port Alsworth will help park staff become more effective and efficient.

Staffing and Training Needs

Staffing

In order to fulfill the vision of this plan, additional funding will be required. Increased funding will enable the park to hire additional interpretive staff. To be effective interpretation must become an established program area rather than a collateral duty assignment. An optimal staff structure may include a full-time GS-025-12 Chief of Interpretation, one GS-025-9 Park Ranger (Interpretation and Education), one GS-025-9 Park Ranger (Interpretation and Media), one GS-025-5/7 Park Ranger (Volunteer Coordinator), one GS-025-5 Park Ranger, three seasonal GS-025-5 front-country Park Rangers, two seasonal GS-025-5 backcountry Park Rangers, and one Student Conservation Association intern (SCA).

The Chief of Interpretation position will manage the entire program which will be formally divided into two units: Port Alsworth and Homer. The Homer unit, overseen by the Education and Interpretation Park Ranger, will focus on year-round curriculum-based education programs and summer season interpretation. Homer staff will be responsible for coordinating interpretive programming with the Pratt Museum, Alaska Islands and Oceans Visitor Center, and other off-site partners. The Port Alsworth unit, overseen by the Interpretation and Media Park Ranger, will provide year-round in-park services, summer backcountry roving and programs, and local resident community education programs. Port Alsworth staff

will be responsible for producing interpretive media projects, maintaining the park website, and overseeing the volunteer program.

The park has submitted an Operations Formulation System (OFS) request to fund the Chief of Interpretation position and to fully fund a GS-025-9 Interpretation and Education position. Additional requests will need to be submitted to acquire all of these positions. Some of these positions may be created immediately by reclassifying existing positions and others may be phased in as funding is approved and positions are vacated.

Training

A trained and motivated workforce is necessary for any successful park operation. Emphasis should be placed on accountability for interpretive standards to be applied or adhered to when any park employees or volunteers present interpretive programs, design publications, media, and exhibits, or present curriculum-based educational programs. Ensure that all staff members who provide interpretive services are held to the appropriate NPS standards as defined in the Interpretive Development Program and be trained accordingly.

Because volunteers are an important part of the workforce, interpretive staff members require an appropriate level of volunteer supervisory training.



Inside the Port Alsworth Visitor Center, the Chaqenq'a Dena'ina exhibit provides visitors opportunities to learn about Dena'ina fish camp traditions.

Implementation Plan

The measure of success of any plan is the extent to which it is implemented. Initial implementation of strategies needs to be both realistic and flexible. Because funding opportunities and priorities often change, park management may need to adjust the implementation strategies to adapt to changing conditions. The park interpretive staff and key park partners should meet each year to draft an Annual Implementation Plan for each new fiscal year based on funding opportunities and coordination with other projects. Flexibility is extremely important to allow park staff and partners the opportunity to try new and different interpretive ideas and make adjustments as necessary.

During the 2010 Recommendations workshop, the participants agreed to divide the actions necessary to implement the recommendations into on-going, short-term (1-3 years), mid-term (4-6 years), and long-term (7-10 years) goals. Some of the recommended actions for are dependent on funding, the hiring of new staff, or creation of new partnerships. Other action items can be implemented immediately, within existing funding and staffing levels.



Kent Miller / NPS VIP

Kayaking Upper Twin Lake

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve: Priorities by Interpretive Service	On-going	Short-term (1-3 years)	Mid-term (4-6 years)	Long-term (7-10 years)
Develop Marketing Strategies and Improve Orientation				
Develop and post virtual trip planners on park website		x		
Post comprehensive access information including transportation service providers such as air taxis and boat rentals		x		
Develop and post an extensive and comprehensive backcountry trip planning information including trip options, routes, types of opportunities available (hiking, rafting, fishing, and bear watching), outdoor ethics, and safety		x		
Fabricate and install wayfinding signs in Port Alsworth		x		
Fabricate and install NPS arrowhead sign in Port Alsworth		x		
Develop new exhibit with partners for Homer airport		x		
Conduct a market analysis			x	
Offer a short orientation film to be shown at the airport hubs and gateway entry points				x
Fabricate and install NPS arrowhead sign in Homer				x
Connect to Virtual Visitors				
Update and revise website	x			
Designate one staff member to be the webmaster		x		
Improve and expand backcountry trip planning information		x		
Coordinate with the park curator to develop and post online exhibits using park collections		x		
Partner with the Pratt Museum to provide a live interpretive feed that accompanies the Bearcam		x		
Develop and post a videocast of the volunteers giving a tour of the Proenneke cabin		x		
Cross-link to partner websites and other sources		x		
Develop social media opportunities			x	
Develop interactive maps that provide a variety of information including trip planning and location and timing of salmon runs			x	
Add a question and answer session as well as two-way virtual conversation to the Bearcam program			x	
Connect all web resources where appropriate to park themes			x	
Develop and offer electronic trips including Lake Clark Pass, along a river, up to Tanalian Falls, on the Telaquana Trail, and to the Proenneke cabin			x	
Develop and post Lake Clark Minutes – short videocasts on a variety of topics			x	
Coordinate with the curator to develop an online “object of the month” using the collections				x
Explore the feasibility of installing a Tanalian Mountain cam, salmon cam and a Dall sheep cam				x

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve: Priorities by Interpretive Service	On-going	Short-term (1-3 years)	Mid-term (4-6 years)	Long-term (7-10 years)
Upgrade and Improve Interpretive Services at the Port Alsworth Visitor Center Complex				
Provide informal talks at the fish camp outdoor display	x			
Develop an exhibit design plan that includes Dena'ina culture exhibits, activity area, fish camp, salmon, a dedicated theater space, an orientation space, porch spaces, and considers levels of access		x		
Offer flexible program times and scheduled evening programs to better accommodate visitors		x		
Schedule an evening program one day a week focusing on what to do and where to go		x		
Explore possibility of an audio station that features elders talking about the cache and racks		x		
Add a smoke house and wall tent to the fish camp area		x		
Add a platform or possibly tilt the double ender to make it easier for people to see inside the boat		x		
Develop a flip book about Bristol Bay double-enders		x		
Develop a new outdoor exhibit using the steam boiler and sawmill based on historic photographs, oral histories, and other sources of information		x		
Develop a soundscape of boat use and cannery operations in the boat house		x		
Develop illustrated programs on fish and Lake Clark's relationship with salmon		x		
Use the whole boat house to tell the stories and show to water and the lake. Use children's paintings/drawings/mural of salmon on side of boat house that faces the cache		x		
Create wall mounted exhibits and displays for the interior of the boat house		x		
Fabricate and install new exhibits			x	
Produce a 10-15 minute film that provides an overview/ introduction to the park			x	
Richard Proenneke Historic Site				
Staff the site during the peak visitor season	x			
Develop a self-guided tour brochure that would be offered next to the guestbook			x	
Lake Clark Pass				
Identify, develop, and publish stories of travel through the pass			x	
Trails				
Offer informal walks on plants and animals at a set time once a week		x		
Create a series of digital tours that people can download to their portable electronic devices		x		
Historic Cabins				
Backcountry planning process begins in October 2010		x		
Utilize historic cabins as outdoor education centers for youth groups, Elderhostel groups, and others			x	
Consider developing a hut-to-hut experience and/or rent-a-cabin			x	
Kijik Archeological District National Historic Landmark				
Offer a program at Kijik once a week or once a month during peak season			x	

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve: Priorities by Interpretive Service	On-going	Short-term (1-3 years)	Mid-term (4-6 years)	Long-term (7-10 years)
Increase Interpretive Opportunities in Homer				
Pratt Museum				
Emphasize shared stories between Dena'ina on the Kenai Peninsula and Dena'ina of Lake Clark. Explain connections between the west and east coast of Cook Inlet, and the connections between people and the land	x			
Provide school groups, YCC, and Bearcam programs	x			
Distribute Junior Ranger bear books	x			
Host events featuring the Bristol Bay double ender and guest speakers		x		
Develop Phase 2 of the Fish Camp exhibit to show Dena'ina cultural similarities and differences			x	
Increase NPS outdoor programming			x	
Identify opportunities to use the Pratt Museum's future multi-purpose room			x	
Explore opportunities to use the existing museum building for future park programming			x	
Develop a program about fish camp using digital media			x	
Explore possibilities to show <i>Dena'ina Qeshqa</i> film and produce an exhibit connected to the film				x
Explore the possibilities of developing an exhibit and/or programs that show how the subsistence story (caribou, black bear, beaver, and moose hunting) has changed over time				x
Sterling Highway/Scenic Overlook				
Provide informal interpretation at the Baycrest Pullout overlook on sunny days	x			
Explore potential media opportunities to interpret park stories		x		
Consider acquiring property along the Sterling Highway to establish pullouts			x	
Develop and post a virtual geocaching site			x	
Explore opportunities for CUAs to expand Homer-based commercial operations			x	
Create a mobile visitor center/contact vehicle			x	
Develop, fabricate, and install new wayside exhibit panels at locations that describe the viewshed and provide context for park stories including Mosaic of Landforms and the Native peoples of the Kenai Peninsula and their connections to the Dena'ina people of Lake Clark				x
Offer boat tours to Chisik Island and Snug Harbor. This service could be park/partnered sponsored or a commercial service.				x
Develop the idea of the park's coastal area as the Eastern gateway to the park				x
Alaska Islands and Oceans Visitor Center				
Provide interpretation on glaciers and volcanoes	x			
Assist with staffing for Discovery Labs and environmental education programs	x			
Continue to develop relationships with the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge and the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve	x			
Schedule NPS staff time at the visitor center desk		x		
Develop programs on weather and climate change		x		
Emphasize natural history and ecological connections		x		
Focus programs on Chisik Island (common boundary), maritime geography, and the rookery. Tese are areas that connect to the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge				x

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve: Priorities by Interpretive Service	On-going	Short-term (1-3 years)	Mid-term (4-6 years)	Long-term (7-10 years)
Expand existing and Develop New Educational Opportunities				
Strengthen message of cultural connections between Kenai Peninsula and Lake Clark	x			
Develop stronger relationships with teachers in the Kenai school district	x			
Develop in collaboration with the Pratt Museum and distribute a K-12 Dena'ina archeology traveling kit	x			
Participate in culture camp/week	x			
Write PMIS requests to develop education products and programs		x		
Integrate programs with those offered by the Pratt Museum		x		
Establish connections with Kenaitze and Ninilchik tribes and create opportunities for elders to be involved in education programs		x		
Increase opportunities to utilize Pratt scholarship interns		x		
Use video conferencing to integrate both park cultural and natural resource experts into presentation		x		
Develop volcano lesson plans in cooperation with the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge		x		
Write natural resource-themed lesson plans			x	
Explore the possibility of utilizing the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program			x	
Develop standards-based lessons and web-based teaching tools for use in schools. Make them available statewide				x
Use Homer as a base for Kenai education programs				x
Present natural resource-themed lesson plans				x
Develop Teaching with Historic Places lesson plans				x
Create a virtual classroom				x
Offer webinars				x
Use Interpretation and Education to Address Resource and Safety Concerns				
Make stronger connections between past and present fishing techniques including catch and release.	x			
Offer subsistence programs on topics most requested by communities.	x			
Make stronger connections between Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly wilderness programs and traditional Dena'ina principles.	x			
Create a boating safety reward program for those "caught" wearing a personal flotation device.		x		
Offer the boating safety program to all local resident zone communities.		x		
Place more emphasis on reaching Port Alsworth youth with conservation messages about the park and preserve.		x		
Offer boating safety and resource related training programs such as Leave No Trace to increase the instructor cadre so more programs can be presented in the local communities.			x	
Partner with the Pratt Museum to add a question and answer session as well as a two-way virtual conversation to the Bearcam program.			x	
Produce subsistence programs using digital media on topics most requested by communities.				x

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve: Priorities by Interpretive Service	On-going	Short-term (1-3 years)	Mid-term (4-6 years)	Long-term (7-10 years)
Expand Existing and Develop New Opportunities to Engage Youth				
Distribute the junior ranger booklet (Lake Clark Pass) at gateway locations, encourage youth to visit the Port Alsworth Visitor Center for their badge		x		
Partner with local resident zone communities to provide interpretive hike and camping experiences.		x		
Develop a Girl Scout Program		x		
Develop an outreach camp at Kijik geared toward youth incorporating responsible camping, safety, outdoor survival, and traditional subsistence including a winter camp for beaver trapping		x		
Offer summer field institutes for local youth			x	
Develop a Boy Scout Program			x	
Coordinate with other local partners to develop a children's program that teaches subsistence skills, outdoor ethics, and promotes stronger cultural connections			x	
Expand services to more resident zone communities				x
Maintain and Grow Existing Partnerships and Explore New Partnerships				
Maintain and grow existing partnerships (Homer, Nondalton Tribal Council, Kijik Corporation, Subsistence Resource Commission, and Kenai Peninsula and Lake and Peninsula school districts), Alaska Marine Conservation Council, Nushagak-Mulchatna/Wood-Tikchik Land Trust, and Alaska State Parks	x			
Explore new partnerships (University of Alaska Bristol Bay campus, Alaska Native Heritage Center, Alaska Channel, international sister parks, Medallion Foundation, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, and Alaska Airmen's Association)	x			
Explore options for partnering on grants and other forms of funding	x			
Form a stronger partnership with Alaska Volcano Observatory and increase interpretive opportunities	x			
Develop opportunities for interpretive training and resource exchanges		x		
Build capacity for managing formal partnerships through training in contracting and agreements			x	
Explore possibilities for detail assignments			x	
Develop a partnership to offer natural and cultural history field workshops that develop park themes including Nondalton, Newhalen, and Pedro Bay			x	
Conduct survey work and protect the Old Nondalton site with Kijik Corporation and Nondalton Tribal Council			x	
Explore the possibility of designating a "sister" park on another continent to develop common themes and broader understanding				x
Develop partnerships for safety programs, curriculum delivery, and summer field youth institutes				x

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve: Priorities by Interpretive Service	On-going	Short-term (1-3 years)	Mid-term (4-6 years)	Long-term (7-10 years)
Fully Integrate Commercial Services into the Interpretive Program				
Establish a commercial services recognition program.	x			
Strengthen all communications between the park and commercial use authorization holders (CUAs). Communication methods include the use of print media, web pages, digital media, and personal contact.	x			
Use current relationships with hunt guide contract holders to develop and distribute interpretive materials. Initially this would include making sure the hunt guides have copies of our current materials.	x			
Continue to offer to make presentations at the lodges, by park staff or guest speakers.	x			
Revitalize and expand the Silver Salmon Creek Guide Program.		x		
Conduct a needs assessment to determine best practices for the park and CUAs to work together more effectively. Work with CUAs to determine how to best reach visitors with park messages and printed materials.		x		
Select materials to produce in cooperation with commercial services partners including flight guide, new maps, and a partner brochure.		x		
Distribute a rack card to all CUAs that interprets Lake Clark Pass.			x	
Distribute rack cards to all CUAs on other suggested topics of interest such as salmon life history, the significance of Lake Clark to the Bristol Bay red salmon fishery, important water bodies of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, and life cycles of major wildlife species that may be commonly viewed in the park.			x	
Develop a thematic (Mountain Landscape/Wilderness, Mosaic Landforms, Cultural Tapestry) audio tour that CUAs could offer visitors coming through Lake Clark Pass			x	
Collaborate with CUAs to create a self-guided aviation tour where people can pick up a brochure/map at Merrill Field and be able to follow their flight along Cook Inlet, through Lake Clark Pass to Port Alsworth.				x
Collaborate with CUAs to develop a video about best practices for bear viewing on the coast and other resource issues.				x
Expand the Volunteer Program				
Conduct a needs assessment by program area identifying potential volunteer opportunities and available resources		x		
Utilize volunteers with media background to transfer Super-8 and 16mm film to a digital video format		x		
Develop a standard operating procedures for signing up volunteers		x		
Develop an improved way to recognize volunteers		x		
Expand focus of volunteer program and add additional volunteer locations			x	
Investigate college credit for high school interns possibly at University of Alaska Fairbanks Bristol Bay Campus			x	
Develop a training checklist/materials for existing volunteers			x	
Develop meaningful, short-term volunteer opportunities			x	
Develop a volunteer page on the park website with personal stories, photos, and a link to a volunteer application form			x	
Investigate additional partner sources for volunteers and training (e.g. Tribes, Alaska Native Heritage Center, YMCA, YWCA, National Outdoor Leadership School, seniors, and retirees)			x	
Improve ways to provide enrichment experiences including working at or traveling to other locations			x	
Develop a mentoring program that pairs experienced volunteers with new applicants				x



Young / NPS

Appendices

Appendix A: The Planning Team

National Park Service

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

John Branson, Historian

Karen Evanoff, Cultural Anthropologist

Yvette Evanoff, Visitor Use Assistant

Lee Fink, Chief Ranger

Lisa Fox, Chief of Commercial Services

Joel Hard, Superintendent

Mary McBurney, Program Manager for Interpretation and Subsistence

Mark Mullins, Facilities Maintenance

Katie Myers, Museum Curator

Angela Olson, Administrative Assistant

Michelle Ravenmoon, Subsistence Coordinator

Megan Richotte, Exhibit Specialist

Elizabeth Wasserman, Education Specialist

Alaska Regional Office

Tonyua Abrom, EEO Diversity

Joel Cusick, GIS Specialist and GPS Coordinator for Alaska Parks

Judy Kesler, Regional Web Manager – Alaska

Morgan Warthin, Wildland Fire Communication and Education Specialist

Harpers Ferry Center

Toni Dufficy, Interpretive Planner (Team Captain)

Winnie Frost, Program Manager

Park Partners

Glen R. Alsworth, Jr., Owner, Lake Clark Air and The Farm Lodge
Marianne Aplin, Manager, Alaska Islands and Ocean Visitor Center
Dave Bachrach, Owner, AK Adventures
Melissa Bair, Alaska Field Representative, National Parks and Conservation Association
Tish Bowman
Preston Caver, Owner, Caver and Julian, Inc.
Ryjl Christianson, Director of Education, Pratt Museum
Diane Converse, Director, Pratt Museum
Holly Cusack-McVeigh, Curator, Exhibits and Anthropological Collections, Pratt Museum
Carol Harding, Acting Executive Director, Homer Council on the Arts and Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
Kris Holderied, Director, NOAA Kasitsna Bay Lab
James Isaak, Owner, Alaska Homestead Lodge
Sheila Isaak, Owner, Alaska Homestead Lodge
Micah Jarlburg, Employee, Farm Lodge
Eleanor Johnson, Representative, Kijik Corporation
Cecilia “Pudge” Kleinkauf, Owner, Women’s Flyfishing
Aaron Leggett, Dena’ina Cultural Historian, Alaska Native Heritage Center
Pete Lundskow, Collections Manager and Curator, Pratt Museum
David McGiven, Associate Professor, Alaska Pacific University
Kayla McVeigh, Pratt Museum Youth Volunteer and Elementary Student
Lisa Oakley, Projects Director, Alaska Geographic
Dan Oberlatz, Owner, Alaska Alpine Adventures
Jim Pfeifferberger, Education Coordinator, Ocean Alaska Science and Learning Center
Beth Trowbridge, Wynn Nature Center Program Director/Educator, Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies
Liz Williams, Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lois Wirtz, Planner, Alaska Travel Industry Association



Iliamna Volcano

Spencer / NPS

Appendix B: Accessibility Guidelines

Every attempt will be made to provide full access to interpretive media and programs to ensure people with physical and mental disabilities have access to the same information necessary for safe and meaningful visits to national parks. This is in compliance with the National Park Service policy:

“...To provide the highest level of accessibility possible and feasible for persons with visual, hearing, mobility, and mental impairments, consistent with the obligation to conserve park resources and preserve the qualities of the park experience for everyone.”

NPS Special Directive 83-3, Accessibility for Disabled Persons

All interpretation will follow general standards for accessibility as described in the Harpers Ferry Center Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for Interpretive Media <http://www.nps.gov/hfc/pdf/accessibility/access-guide-aug2009.pdf>.

Appendix C: Interpretive Themes and Stories

A team of park and region staff, stakeholders, and partners worked together to confirm these themes and associated stories during the Foundation workshop held in December 2009. They are based on the seven themes identified in the October 2009 Foundation Statement. Many of these stories were identified during a brainstorming exercise and were not fully developed by the participants.

Mountain Landscapes and Wildness

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve's astonishing unimpaired scenic beauty provides excellent opportunities for solitude and to experience both wilderness and wildness.

- Homeland of the Dena'ina Athabascan People
- Stories of first travelers and the many trails
- Dick Proenneke's wilderness ethic
- Self-reliance
- How Port Alsworth was established
- Stories of backpackers
- Historic routes – Shank's Mare (i.e. walking and hiking)
- Walking experiences
- Sensory experiences
- Quiet, unspoiled place
- Park – preserve wilderness
- The wildness of the place
- "Alone in the Wilderness"
- Aviation – mountain passes – can see Lake Clark from the air, but not know one is seeing a national park
- Forces of nature are beautiful
- Perspectives and spiritual beliefs of wilderness
- Sense of place and Dena'ina, Russian, and English place names
- Pilgrimage
- Resource protection – green energy
- Wildlife
- Wild rivers
- Wilderness character is "solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation"
- Experiencing the quality of "wildness" and the place where it exists - wilderness

Mosaic of Landforms and Ecosystems

The landscapes and geological formations of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve continue to evolve and provide opportunities to witness and study the forces of changing climate, water, glaciers, plate tectonics, and volcanism.

- Dynamic forces
- Living laboratory
- Diversity of ecosystems, landforms
- Time – slow processes can show dramatic change quickly
- Microcosm of Alaska ecosystems, many resources in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve are reflecting significant effects of Earth's changing climate
- Power = weather/storm
- Pacific Ring of Fire – plate tectonics
- Water – maritime and lakes
- Tidal forces – Captain Cook – mapping Cook Inlet
- Coastal erosion

- Park doesn't end at the boundary
- Passes – maritime and overland
- ANILCA – how did the boundary get set? Township and range (very few people involved in the process – not local)
- Maritime refuge
- Conservation movement (Chisik Island established as a bird “reservation” in 1909 by Theodore Roosevelt)
- Tide pools
- Coastal Cook Inlet watershed
- Fossil Point – fossils

Salmon Fishery

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve protects critical habitat at the headwaters of the world's most productive red salmon fishery, which anchors the economy, ecology, culture, and history of Southwest Alaska.

- Life cycle of the salmon
- Without salmon we are dead
- Without park rearing and salmon ground – no salmon
- “The chase”
- History of people who fish – fish camps (old and new), establishment of lodges, sport fishing, wheelhouse
- “Rods and wings”
- Changes in fishing – 1,000 years to present
- Changes in technology – fish traps, sailboats
- How to fish – learn to fish
- Connection to Bristol Bay – watershed/migrating people (immigrants)
- Without salmon – wouldn't see people or brown bears
- Survival equals subsistence use and cultural identity
- Livelihood and life
- Culture based on subsistence
- Spiritual connection – first salmon ceremony
- Nutrient studies
- Studying geologic story through salmon
- Natural and cultural history connection
- Impact of people on fish – what is being done to protect the habitat
- Invasive species
- Natural fishery – precious subsets – “seed corn”
- Important to protect
- Pulse of life changes – salmon season
- Changes in resource reflected in salmon

Subarctic Fish and Wildlife Populations and Habitats

Lake Clark provides opportunities for the public and the scientific communities to experience, understand, and appreciate the natural processes that influence wild populations and their habitats.

- Natural processes (seasonal, life-cycle)
- Animals and fish on landforms and along coast: diversity – what are they? How do they survive?
- Plants and birds and invertebrates
- What research is going on now and what has been done
- Predator-prey relationship

- Where is the wildlife? Why can't I find them in certain places?
- When is wildlife visible? Wildlife migration
- Modern science involved in tracking – salmon, sheep, bears, wolf - How to count? Track?
- Tracking methods – current/historic
- Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK)
- Animal behavior – human influence
- Food chain
- Weather patterns/stations – real time observation
- Effects of volcanic eruptions
- Volunteers – research
- Relationship with traditional (local, established) people telling stories
- Meanings of wildlife subsistence greatest importance
- Use of plants
- Climate change effect
- Trails
- Wildflowers and medicinal plants

Cultural Tapestry

The landscape and resources of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve support the cultural and spiritual ties between people and place for the indigenous Dena'ina, local residents, and park visitors.

- Dena'ina people have been in the area between 1,000 and 1,200 years.
- Paleo-Indians were in the area as early as 10,000 years ago.
- Year-round residents
- Comparison with seasonal migration
- Last chief of Kijik
- Importance of being chief
- Place name stories and place names
- Story of the fishery
- Different groups of people – Proenneke, Euro-American, Russian, John Clark, early explorers, USGS, late 19th and 20th century immigrants, NPS
- Subsistence fisheries – current stories
- A living landscape
- Rock paintings
- Where did people camp and settle?
- What did they do there?
- Abundance and scarcity drives activity
- Trails including Telaquana
- Flyovers
- Passing information from 1 generation to another
- Archaeology - prehistoric and historic
- Original Dena'ina name for the area and lake
- Story of the park
- Kijik stories
- Trade routes – passes
- Guided hunting and fishing
- Art forms
- Perspectives of local people
- Subsistence – similarities and differences between inland and coastal people
- Connection to the Kenai (today and in the past)
- Seasonal use
- Respect for wildlife

- Naming of Lake Clark
- Local war stories
- Aviation and transportation impact on access
- “Rusticators”
- World War II bomber valley
- Outmigration from villages – culture camp helps preserve lifestyle
- Jay Hammond
- James Isaak family
- Babe and Mary Alsworth
- Joe Munger –trap line/fish/hunt along Silver Salmon Creek
- Miners and trappers were living at Portage Creek and Tanalian Point by 1902. Both places had prospectors before 1900. Hugh Rodman was at Kontrashibuna in 1897 and there were many other unnamed prospectors at Portage Creek between 1895 and 1900.

Subsistence

The continuing story of people interacting with the environment of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve offers opportunities to study and reflect on how our individual and collective choices shape the landscape and populations of fish and wildlife.

- Past and present
- Movement within the park
- Fish camp - prehistoric and contemporary
- Similarities and difference between inland/coastal people
- Culture camp
- Trade is part of subsistence (sharing of resources)
- Hunting, gathering, trapping
- What is subsistence in Lake Clark?
- Artwork created
- What are the resources? Purpose?
- How subsistence has changed over time – laws, tools used
- Park’s role in protecting subsistence rights
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge – consult with people regarding management projects
- How subsistence came to be – controversy
- No Dena’ina word for “resource” or “subsistence”
- Sustainability
- Resource protection – local and NPS perspectives
- Respect for resources
- Remain natural system while still allowing subsistence use
- Subsistence use as part of the park’s “natural system”
- Human presence has been around for 10,000 years

Harpers Ferry Center
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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